

OUR 116TH YEAR

ANDOVER TOWNSMAN

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Deck the Ball
Page 16

Issue No. 12

34 pages, plus a 12-page section

NOVEMBER 20, 2003

75 CENTS

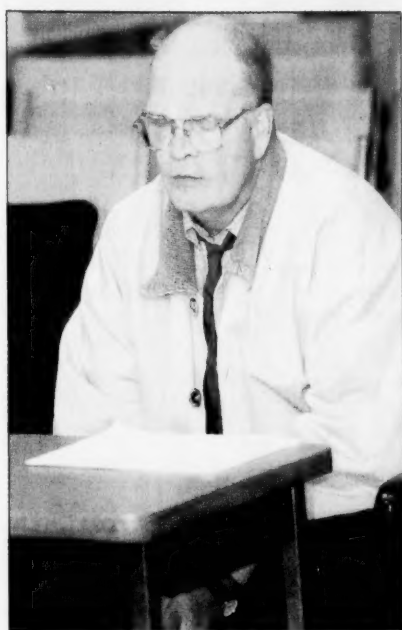


PHOTO BY TIM JEAN

The Department of Education, responding to parent complaints and news articles, has given Andover until Dec. 5 to submit a plan to increase the amount of time students are being taught in the classroom. Principal Peter Anderson, shown at Tuesday night's School Committee meeting, contends he doesn't know of one high school in Massachusetts that offers 990 instructional hours.

'Too many study halls'

Andover must submit plan to increase high school class time to DOE by Dec. 5

By Ben Hellman

Andover is not offering high school students enough classroom time and the state has demanded the schools to present a plan to solve the problem in three weeks. Superintendent Claudia Bach said it was important to comply with the law, but the School Committee hasn't set aside any time to discuss the potentially costly plan before the deadline.

Responding to a parent complaint and news articles publicizing Andover High School's shortage of classroom time, the Massachusetts Department of Education has given Andover until Friday, Dec. 5 to submit a plan

\$96,000?
For batteries?
► Page 5

to increase the amount of time students are being taught. In a letter, the DOE instructed Bach to submit a plan to add 130 hours of classroom instruction to student's days by the 2004-05 school year. Bach must also submit a plan that increases student classroom time for the rest of the current school year.

"The plan must demonstrate that the district will increase for the balance of the 2003-04 school year the total instructional hours provided to students. In addition, the district is required to describe how the 2004-05 school year calendar, as approved by the Andover School Committee, will ensure full compliance with the Student Learning Time Regulations for both elementary and secondary school programs in Andover," wrote John Stager, DOE administrator in Program Quality Assurance Services.

Continued on page 5

Who owns downtown?

Main Street landlords meet with Finegold to discuss appearance

By Andrea Gregory

Andover State Rep. Barry Finegold recently met with downtown landlords to confront them about one of his "pet peeves" — seeing in-demand properties that define Andover's downtown, falling short of his idea of standards when it comes to upkeep and appearance.

Finegold is not going after all of the building owners, but he figured an invitation to discuss the problems with the entire group of Main Street property owners was a good place to start.

The talk centered around the effects of Andover's forthcoming, multi-million dollar makeover — a project that will use state and Town Meeting approved funds to beautify the area. (See sidebar story, page 4.)

Finegold said if the state and residents' tax dollars are going to contribute to a new look, the end result does not deserve to be spoiled by certain "eyesores." He said he would like

LANDLORDS & ADDRESSES
► Page 4

to see landlords each doing their part to uphold the overall appeal of Andover's gem of a downtown area.

According to Lisa Schwarz, senior town planner and liaison to the Main Street Committee, the gathering was a great opportunity to inform downtown property owners about the transformation of the area.

As for the turnout, 12 of the 19 owners showed up, which shows great

interest, she said. She said out of the seven who were not there, three of them called beforehand.

"We only stuck with Main Street," she said, indicating that meant the stretch between Lewis Street and Punchard Avenue.

But those numbers were not enough to please Finegold.

"The good people were there, and the bad people weren't there. I'm not satisfied," said Finegold. "For those landlords that weren't there, they were

Continued on page 4



PHOTO BY TIM JEAN

Some people leave tips for good service; some tip automatically, regardless of the quality of the service they receive. Above, a customer leaves a tip after paying at a coffee shop. Others, when asked, would never dream of tipping after buying a cup of coffee.

Tipping in town

Residents' opinions vary about when to tip for service

By Ben Hellman

To TIP OR NOT TO TIP — that is the question. With the number of workers who perform personal services in most people's lives, the answer is not always an easy one.

Most people know that waitresses make the majority of their pay from tips, and a 15- to 20-per-

cent tip is standard. Beyond that, people say the rules for tipping aren't as well-defined. From the barber shop to the hotel room to the coffee shop tip cup, tipping is a personal choice.

On a recent week night at Palmer's Restaurant, patrons Dennis Linane of North Reading and Mike Spiro, here on a business trip from Chicago, were at the bar for drinks.

The men are model tipplers. Spiro worked in bars and food service in the '60s and '70s. He said when he tended bar, women didn't tip well because they weren't used to paying for themselves. "Girls didn't know how to tip because

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POLICE PRESENCE ON WEDNESDAY

Graffiti threat at Doherty causes concern

By Ben Hellman

There was a police presence at Doherty Middle School yesterday, Wednesday, at *Townsmen* presstime, after graffiti was found scribbled by someone threatening violence to the school. The graffiti threat was written in ballpoint pen in a back hallway of the school used by janitors.

The threat was, "IM (sic) going to shot-up (sic) the school on the 19."

Andover Police Lt. James Hashem said that there would be increased security at the school for an undisclosed period of time. He would not specify the plans for the sake of security. "We are taking extra security precautions," said Hashem.

The graffiti was discovered last Thursday, Nov. 13, in the morning on a fuse box in an area that is not used by students and usually kept dark. An electrician was working in the area and found the message, which Principal Floyd McManus described as "barely discernible."

Hashem said that the message could have been there for days or months, but not years.

Andover Police were informed immediately, and McManus sent a letter to parents describing the situation the same day.

McManus described security measures that would be taken in

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2003 MIAA All-State Championship Meet

5th straight crown for AHS swimmers

By Rick Harrison

The flashing red, white and blue lights moving along Route 125, down Main Street and on to Andover High Sunday evening could mean only one thing.

The AHS girls swim and dive team had done it again.

The police escort signaled another state championship for the Lady Warriors.

Parlaying its incomparable depth and talent, with double individual wins by senior Liz Mancuso and sophomore Caitlin Doherty, the locals rolled to an easier-than-anticipated victory over a field of more than 40 schools at the 2003 MIAA

All-State Championship Meet held at Harvard University's Blodgett Pool.

Mancuso placed first in the 50- and 100-freestyle sprint races, while Doherty captured the 100 butterfly and 500 free, as Andover scored in every event except the one-meter diving on the way to 245 team points.

Acton-Boxboro, which gave Andover a run for its money at the North Sectionals a week earlier, finished a distant second at 127.

Notre Dame Academy of Hingham was third at 125.5, and rounding out the top six schools were South Sectional champ Seekonk (107), Bel-

Continued on page 20



PHOTO BY ANDY BAUMGARTNER

Sophomore Caitlin Doherty is on her way to win the 500-yard freestyle race for Andover High at the 2003 MIAA All-State Championship Meet Sunday, Nov. 16 at Harvard University. Andover won the state championship by more than 100 points.



16TH ANNUAL FEASTER FIVE

DATE: Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 27

DISTANCES: Kid's K, 5-mile and 5-kilometer races and walks

LOCATION: Brickstone Square, Andover

TIME: Kid's K 8 a.m.; 5-K run and walk, 8:30 a.m.; 5-mile run and walk, 8:30 a.m.

ENTRY FEE: \$22 on or before Nov. 23, and \$25 after Nov. 23, non-refundable; make checks payable to: "DMSE/Feaster." Mail application and check to: Feaster Five, DMSE, Inc., P.O. Box 80067, Stoneham, MA 02180. Kid's K is \$5. **NOTE:** Race-day entries will be accepted.

PIES: All finishers receive a homemade, old-fashioned apple pie just in time for Thanksgiving dinner.

LONG SLEEVE T-SHIRT: The first 6,000 5K and 5-mile registrants are guaranteed a long sleeve T-shirt.

REFRESHMENTS: Fruit, bagels and other traditional holiday treats will be served.

Andover's Thanksgiving tradition

Thousands of people will flock to Shawsheen Square on Thanksgiving to run the Feaster Five Road Race. While the race welcomes serious runners, families and those using the race to raise money for charity, many participants each year admit one of the highlights is getting an apple pie at the finish line.

TO BENEFIT: Pledges collected will go to the Lazarus House and Home Health VNA.

ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:

- Digital clocks placed at every mile for accurate split times
- Light refreshments served following the race
- Free and convenient parking
- Full results posted on the Internet
- Race results booklet to be mailed to all entrants
- Please bring non-perishable food to be donated to the Lazarus House

SANCTIONED BY: Road Runners Club of America

REGISTRATION: Registration and number pick up will be held as follows: Monday, Nov. 24, Tuesday, Nov. 25 from noon to 7 p.m. and

Wednesday, Nov. 26 from noon to 6 p.m. at the Guesthouse Inn and Suites, Methuen. Thursday, Nov. 27th (Race Day): 7 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. at Woodworth Motors, corner of Routes 28 and 133.

DIRECTIONS TO GUESTHOUSE INN: North or south take I-93 to Exit 47, Pelham Street. From points East or west, take I-495 to I-93 North to Exit 47, Pelham Street. The Guesthouse International Inn & Suites is located at the base of the exit.

AWARDS: Top three in each age division (19 and under, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70-79, 80+) in both the 5-mile and 5K races. Certificates will be given to all children participating in the Kid's K. Age group prizes to be mailed.

5-MILE COURSE: Starts on

Main Street at the corner of Routes 133 and 28. Goes straight through Elm Square in the center of town, left onto Morton, left on Bartlet, right on Chestnut, left on Pasho, right on Summer, left on Washington, left on Elm, right on Maple, left on Walnut, right on High, straight on High taking left onto Haverhill, right on York, then finishing turning right into the Brickstone Square parking lot.

5K COURSE: Start at same location as 5-miler, straight to Elm Street, left on Elm then immediate left onto High Street, straight on High (merging with 5-mile race at corner of High and Walnut and staying to the left side of the street the rest of the way), following 5-miler to York Street and finishing turning right into the Brickstone Square parking lot.

DIRECTIONS: From Boston, take I-93 North to Exit 43, which is Route 133 East. From New Hampshire, take I-93 South to Exit 43A. Follow approximately 3 miles through three sets of traffic lights taking left onto York Street, which is directly after Route 28.

TIMING AND RESULTS: Granite State Race Services

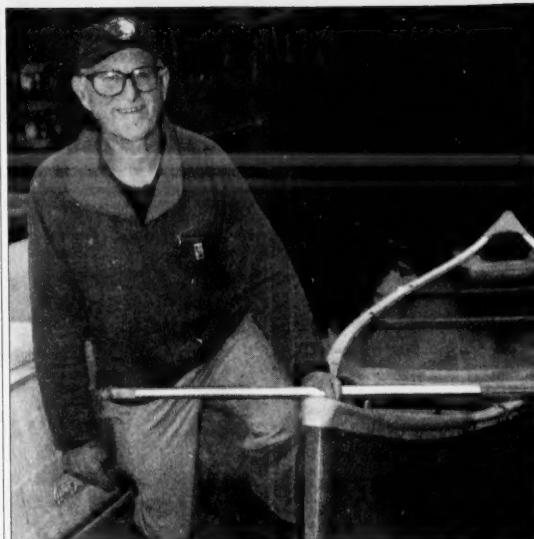
HOTEL: Guesthouse Inn and Suites

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HOSTED BY: Merrimack Valley Striders

RACE WEB SITE: www.feasterfive.com

RACE MANAGEMENT: Dave McGillivray Sports Enterprises Inc., 77 Bear Hill Road, North Andover, MA 01845; 978-258-8226. E-mail: dmse@dmseports.com



Alan French is looking for a few good hands this weekend.

Foster's Pond island clean-up

Canoe help?

By Ben Hellman

THIS WEEKEND, residents have the chance to be a part of an engineering marvel worthy of *The Learning Channel*. The challenge: get a large pile of wood off an island in Fosters Pond. The plan: volunteers will form lines and hand pieces of wood down to the shore. Boats linked to the main land by pulley and driven by residents will bring the debris to a dumpster, shore side.

The trails are cleared, the pulley is rigged, the boats are ready. The only thing waiting is for residents to show up and hand wood down a hill.

The pile was created last winter when a work crew demolished a derelict house on the island. The pond was covered with ice at the time, which permitted smaller vehicles to cross, but a dump truck was too heavy to make the crossing, so the debris was left behind.

But this Saturday and Sunday residents can accomplish what work crews could not, said Andover outdoorsman and trails enthusiast Alan French. French set the plan in motion when the town deemed the pile unsafe and unsightly, but didn't know how to

Where: 15 Fosters Pond Road
When: Saturday & Sunday, Nov. 22-23

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Call 978-470-1982

remove it. The plan relies on numbers. French believes the system he has planned will accommodate as many as 300 people without wasting anyone's labor. "The more, the better. I'm feeling really good about it," said French.

French and fellow trails enthusiast Dennis Crispo cleared two boat landings on the island and two trails to the debris site Tuesday morning. They also set up a pulley so a rowboat can be filled completely and ferried back and forth.

French expects the work to be easy enough for kids aged 10 and older to be able to handle. Work gloves will be important because the wood will be rough and some pieces will contain nails. Warm clothes are also important.

There will be hibachis set up to warm water for beverages and to warm people up if it gets cold.

Refreshments will be provided.

Rep. Finegold to have office hours Nov. 25

State Rep. Barry R. Finegold of Andover and staff will be holding office hours on Tuesday, Nov. 25 in Lawrence, Andover, and Tewksbury at the following times and locations:

- in Lawrence, at Al's Diner, 297 South Broadway St., from 8 to 9 a.m.;
- in Tewksbury, at the Tewksbury Senior Center from 9 to 10 a.m.;
- in Andover, at the Andover Senior Center from 10 to 11 a.m., and at Memorial Hall Library from 6 to 7 p.m.

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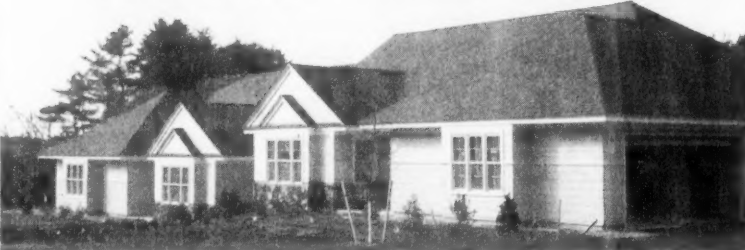
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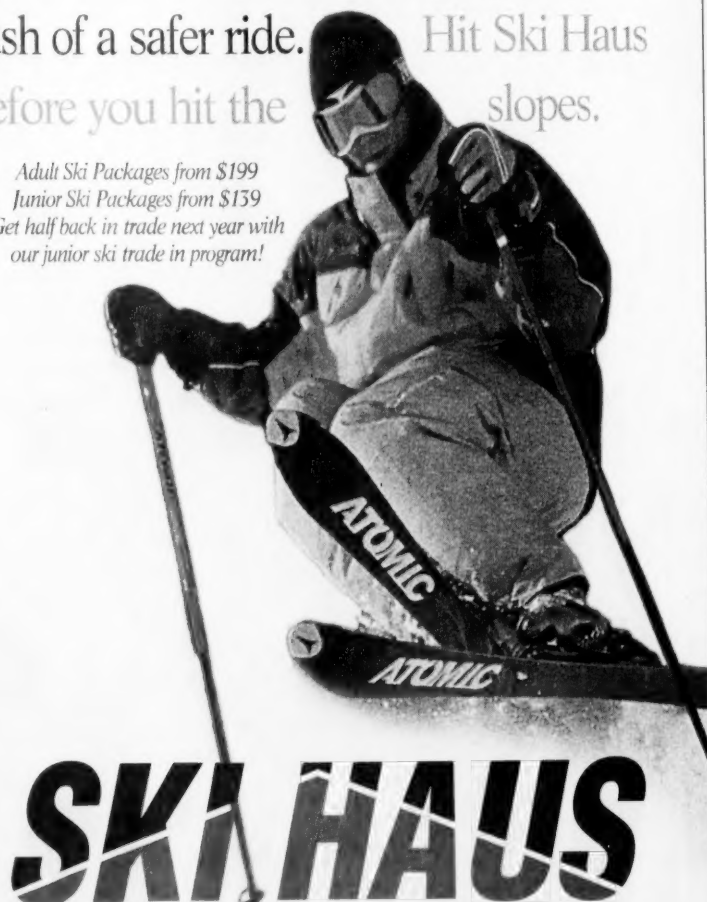
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IN BRIEF

Traffic enforcement under way with grant

The Andover Police Department has received a \$12,000 grant to conduct extra traffic enforcement during the second year of the Governor's Highway Safety Bureau's "Click It or Ticket" and "You Drink and Drive, You Lose" campaigns. The GHSB, a program of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety, is providing \$2.2 million in grant funding for these two campaigns to 217 local police departments and to the State Police.

The first Click It or Ticket mobilization is under way and will run through Nov. 30. The first You Drink and Drive, You Lose, mobilization will be from Dec. 15 to Jan. 4.

"This Click It or Ticket mobilization will reduce the danger we all face from motor-vehicle crashes during the heavily-traveled Thanksgiving holiday period," said Brian Pattullo, police chief. "In addition to preventing aggressive and impaired driving and speeding, this mobilization will allow us to increase compliance with the Massachusetts safety-belt and child passenger safety laws so more people will be protected."

The GHSB's Click It or Ticket and You Drink and Drive, You Lose campaigns, made possible by federal highway safety grants, combine traffic enforcement, public information, as well as community education. The Click It or Ticket Campaign helped to increase safety belt use from 51 percent in 2002 to 62 percent in 2003. For more information, go to www.mass.gov/ghsb.

"We strongly urge those using Massachusetts roadways, in particular over the Thanksgiving holiday period, to drive sober and well-rested," said Secretary Edward A. Flynn. "This Click It or Ticket Mobilization will encourage safe driving that will help to reduce the more than 400 fatalities, 91,000 injuries, and \$6.3 billion in economic costs from motor-vehicle crashes that annually devastate Massachusetts families and our economy."

There were four motor vehicle crashes that resulted in four fatalities during the four-day Thanksgiving holiday period in Massachusetts in 2002.

PAST AND PRESENT



From 1835 to 1947 the North District School sat at the corner of North Street and River Road. Later, that building was used by West Andover Community Association. It was demolished in 1984. In the bottom photo is a shot of approximately the same location, taken this week.

Census information

The annual town census will be mailed to residents at the beginning of January 2004. Anyone who is leaving town for an extended period should contact the town clerk's office at 978-623-8257 so they will not be dropped from census rolls.

Indoor track open to public for walking Dec. 1

Andover residents will be able to use the track at the Andover High School field house starting Monday, Dec. 1 and running through March 12.

The hours for walking are Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 6:15 to 7:15, and

Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. During school vacations, the track will be closed to the public.

Parking is behind the field house in the morning and evening.

Quote, unquote . . .

AFTER I PAID ATTENTION TO THEM, (I realized) they were a lot more intelligent than I gave them credit for.
—Mark Atwood, superintendent of the West Parish Garden Cemetery, on the geese that plagued the cemetery grounds before he trained a dog to chase them away. (Story, page 16)

I'M REALLY NOT SURE WHAT I WANT TO BE.

—11-year-old Connor Hoff, who has attended the Saint Thomas Choir School since he was 8. He doesn't expect to pursue a career in singing. In fact, right now he's thinking about being an astronaut. (Story, page 11)

YOU'D BE SURPRISED what people will do for free lunches. They abandon their inhibitions.
—Dana Wilson, the owner and chef at Raspberries, a downtown lunch spot that occasionally offers free lunches to people who sing one of Wilson's favorite songs. (Story, page 19)

News Calendar

Thursday, Nov. 20

Finance Committee, contract subcommittee, Town Offices, second floor, 6 p.m.

Disabilities Commission, Memorial Hall Library, Activity Room, 7 p.m.

Pay As You Throw Committee, public hearing, School Administration Building, school committee conference room, 7 p.m.

Housing Authority, 100 Main St., Stowe Court Community Room, 7:15 p.m.

Cable Advisory Committee, Town Offices, second floor, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 21

Pay As You Throw Committee, public hearing, School Administration Building, school committee conference room, 10 a.m.

Monday, Nov. 24

Board of Health, Town Offices, second floor, 6-9 p.m.

School Committee, executive session, School Administration Building, conference room, 6:30 p.m.

Andover Cultural Council, Town Offices, third floor, 7 p.m.

Housing Partnership Committee, Town Offices, first floor, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 25

Zoning Board of Appeals, public hearing on 45-47 High St., Town Offices, second floor, 6:30 p.m.

Pay As You Throw Committee, Memorial Hall Library, 7:30 p.m.

Planning Board, Town Offices, third floor, 7:30 p.m.

Vision 21 Committee, Town Offices, CD&P conference room, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 1

Sanborn School Council, Lovejoy Road, 3:30 p.m.

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Local Martial Arts School Students Competed in International Tae Kwon Do Championship.

1st Annual Yong-In University Presidential Cup International TaeKwonDo Championship was held at Harvard University, Boston. It was the biggest championship in Mass so far. They had over 1000 competitors.

32 Competitors from Master Shin's Martial Arts School in North Andover participated in this championship. They were the most successful competitors from single school. The competitor's names are:



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Eddy Arrigo(1st), Chris Bennett(2nd), Vincent Cheung(2nd), Jack Egan(2nd), Onelio Espinal(State Champion), Emily Ford(1st), Clay Greenberg(3rd), Jess Greaves(1st), Amna Greaves(3rd), Chris Giuffrida(3rd), Laurenz Gallopyn(3rd), Majorie Herber(1st), Ashna Kathuria(2nd), Kanav Kathuria(2nd), Spencer Li(3rd), Ben Kincaid(3rd), Tommy Kincaid(1st), Mark LeDuc(3rd), Matt LeDuc(3rd), Alex Martino(2nd), Zachary Martino(2nd), Jonathan Nerz(3rd), Phill Raza(1st), Anthony Picardi(2nd), Veronica Schott(2nd), Bobby Schwartz(3rd), HaeHyun Shin(1st), Joseph Staudt(3rd), Mary Tower(3rd), Joey Tower(3rd), Katherine VonEhr(2nd), Laxi Zafonti(1st).

Landlords meet

■ FINEGOLD DISSATISFIED

Continued from page 1

in fear of that."

He said it may take "something with a preservation act where there are some kind of rules and regulations" for downtown to look the way he wants.

"I'd rather have it be self-regulated than have the town government do it, but that remains to be seen," he said.

He said parts of the discussion were productive, and – overall – downtown looks good, but 20 to 30 percent of the buildings are in need of restoration. He said that means a fresh coat of paint and minor touch-ups would greatly improve the area.

"When this downtown is done, I think the community is going to be so impressed by it, but we need the landlords to do their part," he said.

Attendees generally have two things to say: the meeting was informative, and the preference would be not to have government-enforced regulations on the properties.

"He made his point very clear. It bothers everyone when there are a few buildings left to deteriorate," said Steve Druth, of Druth Commercial Real Estate, who is leasing space above FleetBank from owner Tom Belhumeur. "Nobody wants big brother forcing them, and it might not come to that. It might be a self-police policy."

Druth said Belhumeur asked him to come along and offer his thoughts as a commercial broker.

"It would be great to have it looking as great as possible," Druth said. But upkeep, fresh paint and other beautifying changes cost money. "If you can't afford to do it, how would you do it?"

John McArdle's family owns Main Street property, and he also oversees the Lally trust. He attended the meeting, but had to leave the meeting early and was not around for Finegold's thoughts about possibly mandating appearance standards if they cannot be met voluntarily.

"I would have told him I don't agree with this at all. It's inappropriate," said McArdle. "I think it's an absurd approach. That's not a helpful approach. I'm in favor of maintaining property. There are better ways to do it."

McArdle said the trust for the Lally property he oversees does have plans to handle reconstructing a building on Bartlett Street that was destroyed in a fire. But, as Druth said, timing can involve financial limits.

According to McArdle, such projects should be tackled by a rate set by the owner and of their free will.

"We're going to try to make improvements, but it won't happen overnight," said McArdle. "We do the best we can. That's up to me, not him, how those dollars will be spent."

Druth and McArdle both said Andover's downtown is a vibrant and thriving community.

Finegold agrees, but cannot overlook problems he sees.

"It's not like there's a lot of this going on downtown. In terms of all the important things, it's great," Druth said. "...99 percent of it looks fabulous."

"I think Andover's downtown looks better than it has in the 54 years I've been alive," said McArdle.

"I think it's important, though, that the (Main Street) project move forward, and I'm glad that they're doing it."

Who owns Main Street?

ADDRESS	OWNER	CONTACT PERSON	TOWN	WHAT'S THERE
1 - 7 Main St.	McCartney Realty Trust	Ruth McCartney	Andover	Kaps; Andover Counseling Associates
2 Main St.	Casmira Simeone	Casmira Simeone	Andover	Alpers Fine Arts
9 Main St.	Florence S. Burns Trust	Nancy B. McArdle	Andover	The Strawberry Tree
10 - 16 Main St.	10 Main Street LLC	Thomas Belhumeur	Swampscott	Barnard Building - Starbucks; KaBloom
13 Main St.	Florence S. Burns Trust	Nancy B. McArdle	Andover	Irresistibles
17 Main St.	Florence S. Burns Trust	Nancy B. McArdle	Andover	Andover Barber Shop
23 Main St.	Twenty-three Main Street LLC	Thomas Belhumeur	Swampscott	Fleet Bank
27-35 Main St.	Andover Bank	% CB R Ellis/Boulos management	Portland, ME	Nazarian's; Quiet Pleasures
36 - 44 Main St.	Richard Lally	Richard Lally	Andover	Beauty Solutions; Main Street Salon; Andover Optical; Regina Gifts
45 Main St.	Andover Bank	% CB R Ellis/Boulos management	Portland, ME	Daher's Shoes
46 Main St.	Irving Kaplan	Irving Kaplan	Newton	Bagette
48 - 58 Main St.	Donald Richmond	Barbara Richmond	Andover	Royal Jewelers
60 Main St.	North Bay Properties LLC	(not available)	North Andover	Eastern Insurance
61 Main St.	Andover Bank	% CB R Ellis/Boulos management	Portland, ME	BankNorth
68 Main St.	JJ&C	Alan Yameen	Georgetown	Barcelos Plaza - Sovereign Bank; CVS
69 Main St.	Cumberland Farms Inc	(not available)	Canton	Gulf
71 Main St.	71 Main Street Realty Trust	Nicholas Aznoian	Andover	First Essex Bank
74 Main St.	Richard Lally	Richard Lally	Andover	Flowers by Steve
76 Main St.	Richard Lally	Richard Lally	Andover	Prudential Howe & Doherty Realtors
77 Main St.	Nicholas Aznoian	Nicholas Aznoian	Andover	House of Clean; H&R Block
84 Main St.	Savings Bank	(not available)	Wakefield	The Savings Bank
89-93 Main St.	OAV Realty Trust	Peter Onanian	N. Chelmsford	Olde Andover Village; shops
90 Main St.	Ninety Main Street Realty	Frederick Flather III Trust	Laconia, NH	Kinder Clothing; Bertucci's; offices
92-96 1/2 Main St.	J&N Realty Trust	James & Nancy Hadad	Andover	Body & Soul Nutrition/Tanning, Ultimate Perk
2 Elm Square	Add LLC	Anthony DiNapoli	Andover	John Charles Salon
16 N. Main St.	Prestly S. Blake	C L Blake Trust, Friendly #108	Wilbraham	Friendly's
2 - 14 N. Main St.	Mobil Oil Corp	% Exxonmobil Property Tax Division	Houston, TX	Mobil

SOURCE: ANDOVER ASSESSORS OFFICE AND ANDOVER PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Planned beautification of downtown is ready to roll

By Andrea Gregory

With \$2.5 million on its way from the state and \$573,500 approved by Town Meeting voters, downtown Andover is about to look much prettier.

The plan is to give the area a multi-million dollar makeover and a whole new look. From lighting to trash cans, the details are being ironed out by the Main Street Committee.

Lisa Schwarz, senior planner and liaison to the Main Street Committee, said the 75-percent-complete plans have been resubmitted to the state after

the group addressed some concerns.

According to Schwarz, the state wasn't keen on some of the traffic-signal ideas the committee had mapped out. The state said no to a "flashing countdown" for pedestrian crossings and wants pedestrians to see the "flashing man" walk-signal instead.

The committee is now working on the last of the issues and making final decisions, such as ideas for regulating or possibly color-coordinating newspaper vending boxes.

The committee is also looking at which direc-

tion on Main Street construction should progress. Committee members said that when construction starts could dictate where it starts.

At the earliest, the project would begin in August; and the latest start date would be in the spring of 2005. The concern is where construction would be suspended when winter comes, and the project is forced to stop for the season.

Members said they would like to have a plan for construction that would inconvenience downtown merchants as little as possible.

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"We keep kids looking like kids."

Selectman questions \$96K for laptop batteries

By Andrea Gregory

\$96,000 for batteries?

That's correct. According to the Capital Improvement Plan for fiscal year 2005, the town manager is recommending \$507,050 for the school department's Curriculum and Instruction budget, with \$96,000 to be spent replacing 600 laptop batteries.

At Monday night's board meeting, Selectman Ted Teichert brought up the high cost of keeping the laptops running.

"It might be better to start plugging these things in," said Selectman Ray Hender.

But according to school officials, plugging in laptops defeats the purpose, and the cost of batteries is essential to running a laptop program.

"It not only defeats the purpose, you'd have 20 to 30 wires all over the place," said Bernie Tuttle, school business manager.

Tuttle called the high-priced line item a "maintenance thing."

"After so many cycles, they just won't charge any more," he said. "A typical laptop battery can be recycled 300 to 400 times."

He said many of them are charged twice a day, giving them 3-to-3.5 hours of power.

Tuttle said the way the schools want to deliver the curriculum is to wheel it into the classroom. He said the school is following a mobile technology trend. He said teachers can sign up for the mobile lab from a day to a week.

"From a teacher's point of view, I think it would be difficult to schedule time in a stationary lab, to fit it into the lesson we're talking about," said Tuttle.

Technology offers convenience, but definitely at a cost. The \$96,000 cost of laptop batteries could easily cover two teacher salaries.

"I can't dispute that. All I can say is this is the position we're in. This just happens to be the cost," said Ray Tode, technology and information director. "But those are the decisions made years ago." In 1999, Andover schools were introduced to laptops, said Tode.

According to Tode, the program started when three carts of laptops were rolled into classrooms at South, Doherty and West. He said a decision was made to move forward with the program, which has grown to 90 laptops at High Plain, 90 at Wood Hill, 60 at the other two middle schools, and 30 at each of the elementary schools.

"This is a big opportunity that we have going here," said Tode. "The idea of getting kids up from the classroom and going to the computer lab is something we're trying to get away from."

But Tode admitted factoring in battery and maintenance costs does mean the schools are spending more than they would on desktop computers.

According to Tode, laptop batteries cost between \$99 and \$180. He said many of the batteries can be recharged 400 to 600 times before

giving out, an estimate slightly higher than Tuttle's.

Tode said if they are charged only once a day, it is possible they could last up to three years, while others have a shorter lifespan, depending on the laptop. In some laptop models, two batteries might be needed.

Tode said there are power-saving chips that help prolong batteries, but none of the school-owned laptops currently have them.

When the laptop program first hit Andover, it was before the new schools were built. Tode said lack of space would have made it hard for the schools to expand their computer services. He said laptops also make computer use "more available to weave into the curriculum."

"The cost of the batteries is just the cost of doing business," said Tode. "I just want to make sure we have batteries that are going to go."

Last year the school department asked for \$20,000 to spend on batteries.

This year the amount is jumping by nearly five times for fiscal year 2005.

"That's because we haven't been replacing batteries the way we should," said Tode. "It's going to be an ongoing cost. It may not be \$96,000 every year, but it's going to be a substantial cost. There's no doubt about it. I don't think it will ever go back to \$20,000. It's just a supply issue that we need to conduct business as usual."

Study halls at AHS

■ 'NONCOMPLIANCE'

Continued from page 1

Massachusetts law states that high school students must be in the classroom for 990 hours each school year, but Andover High students are receiving only 860 hours this year. Principal Peter Anderson has placed students in internships and encouraged special projects; however, most students have at least one study hall this semester - some have as many as three.

"We're clearly in a situation where we haven't had the financial resources, but we've made every

effort to meet the requirement," said Anderson.

Anderson said that in order to offer students 990 hours, he would need to hire 24 to 35 more teachers.

The cost of hiring even a small number of teachers exceeds the present school budget.

Bach said she would respond to the DOE by the Dec. 5 deadline, but didn't say that a plan that would require School Committee approval would be publicly discussed before then. The Dec. 2 meeting will be spent hearing from school improvement committees, she said.

AHS Parent Advisory Council

members hope the matter will be addressed quickly. "We'd like to see a plan sooner than later," said high school mom and townwide PAC chairwoman Kristin Wise. AHS PAC mothers Wise, Ellen Travers, Patrice Minton and Diane Costagliola were also present at the committee meeting. These mothers have continued to voice their concerns that there are too many study halls and not enough credits for AHS students.

Travers was pleased with the amount of support the administration and committee gave to the importance of offering more class hours. "I thought there was a lot more public support than I've seen before," said Travers.

Other towns

Principal Anderson has said that he doesn't know of one high school in Massachusetts that does offer 990 instructional hours. However, Kimberly Beck, DOE spokeswoman, said she didn't know of any other district that wasn't complying, but said the department couldn't monitor all the districts at once.

"If they'd like to name names, we'd be happy to investigate them too," said Beck.

Beck could not say how many administrators worked in the DOE's Program Quality Assurance or what system it used to ensure that the law was followed by districts. Beck didn't respond with the information by *Townsmen* presstime.

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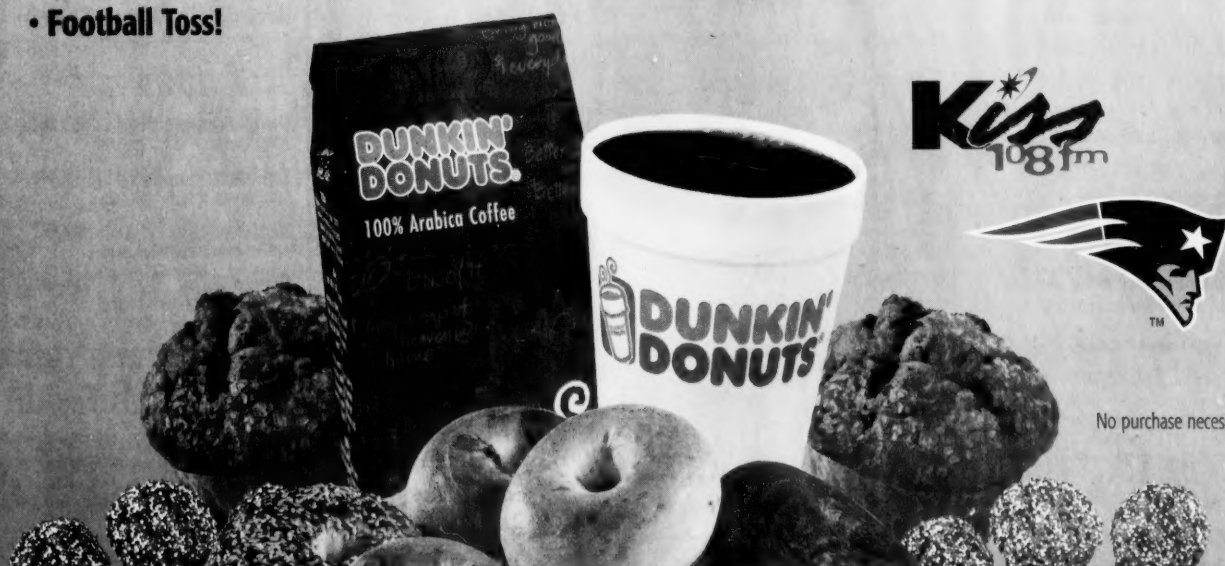
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Andover Police Officer Dennis Lane watches parents and students enter Doherty Middle School yesterday, Wednesday, Nov. 19, as the school increased security after finding threatening graffiti.

Graffiti threat found at Doherty

■ POLICE PRESENCE

Continued from page 1

a second letter to parents sent home Monday this week. The plan outlined was:

- A constant police presence at the school on Wednesday;
- Only two doors would be unlocked in the morning for students;
- After students arrived, only the front door would remain unlocked; and
- All after-school activities were canceled and students were required to leave the building after school.

School administrators met with Andover Police and members of a special unit that handles threats to schools to determine how to handle the threat.

The School Threat Assessment Response Team (START) program is offered by the North East Law Enforcement Council (NEMLEC), of which Andover is a member.

Doherty Parent Advisory Council head Carolyn Hanson said she planned to treat Wednesday as if it were any other day. She believed other parents were thinking the same.

"I think the threat is minimal," said Hanson.

Doherty parent and library volunteer Steve Knapp said the threat upset his family. "It made my daughter, who is a seventh-grader, very upset," said Knapp.

"My wife and I were just angry about it," Knapp said the threat upset his daughter because she had seen violent events that have occurred at other schools on the news. Knapp said his daughters' friends seemed to be frightened by the threat, too.

Knapp said McManus' letter outlining the specific precautions was reassuring. He planned to be at Doherty on Wednesday because it was his scheduled time to volunteer at the school library. "I don't think we can let something as undefined as this, keep us from doing what we usually do," said Knapp. Still, he said, he would be paying closer attention and planning what he would do in case of an emergency.

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POLICE LOG

ARRESTS

Tuesday, Nov. 11 – At 11:45 a.m., Juan Lozano, 37, of 2 Orchard St., Haverhill, was arrested and charged with driving a car without an inspection sticker and a subsequent offense of driving with a suspended license.

Thursday, Nov. 13 – At 3:59 p.m., Francis Byrne, Jr., 50, of 455 Union St., Manchester, N.H., was arrested and charged with driving with a revoked registration and driving an uninsured motor vehicle. He was wanted on a separate warrant for assault and battery and an unnatural act.

Saturday, Nov. 15 – At 8:28 a.m., Ivette Sanbrian, 26, of 800 Bullfinch Drive, was arrested and charged with assault and battery on a household member.

At 7 p.m., Shawn Curley, 24, of 60 Kelsey Mill Road, Northwood, N.H., was arrested and charged with possession of heroin.

Sunday, Nov. 16 – At 12:09 a.m., Michelle Curran, 21, of 109 Nahant St., Wakefield, was arrested and charged with possession of cocaine.

At 12:37 a.m., Brian Curran, 25, of 2 Silvestri Circle, Derry, N.H., was arrested and charged with failure to stop for police, providing a false name to police, and driving with a revoked license.

At 10:13 p.m., James Philbin, 26, of 138 Winterwood Dr., Londonderry, N.H., was arrested and charged with trafficking in cocaine, possession of marijuana with intent to distribute, and having a controlled substance in, on, or near a school or playground.

Monday, Nov. 17 – At 10:55 a.m., Michael Gouveia, 28, of 5 Pipers Glen, was arrested and charged with possession of a class B substance with intent to distribute and possession of a class E substance with intent to distribute.

Tuesday, Nov. 18 – At 7:21 p.m., Richard Barrett, 60, of 9 Flash Road, Reading, was arrested and charged with larceny of over \$250 and obtaining by false pretense or fraudulent signature.

THEFTS

Friday, Nov. 14 – At 1:08 p.m., a Stouffer Circle resident reported a woman who worked for him for a week may have stolen \$1,700 from him.

INCIDENTS

Tuesday, Nov. 11 – At 7:23 a.m., a Paddock Lane resident reported construction work starting before 7 a.m. An officer could not find construction vehicles, but they later appeared.

At 6:39 p.m., a 16-year-old took 40

to 50 anti-depressant pills and was taken to the hospital by ambulance. She was conscious and breathing.

Thursday, Nov. 13 – At 12:11 a.m., two men in a sports car were caught by security trying to steal tires from a vehicle on Old River Road. The men escaped without the tires.

At 8:34 a.m., the B&M Railroad Police reported a train had hit a deer and it was still alive. They arranged to meet Andover Animal Control where the deer was put down.

Friday, Nov. 14 – At 7:10 a.m., the Greater Lawrence Technical School received a bomb threat and evacuated the school.

At 10:38 p.m., a Salem Street resident reported about 50 cars parked at his house and teenagers vomiting outside. They swore at him when he approached them.

Saturday, Nov. 15 – At 9:40 p.m., five kids were given a verbal warning for jumping out of their car at a stop sign and screaming and yelling.

Monday, Nov. 17 – At 8:22 a.m., three men were reported hurt in an industrial accident on Burr Road.

AUTO INCIDENTS

Tuesday, Nov. 18 – At 9:12 a.m., a Lovejoy Road resident reported the cover stolen from her jeep.

ACCIDENTS

Wednesday, Nov. 12 – At 1:23 p.m., a car ran off the road and caught fire at the corner of Wildwood Road and Rt. 125. The incident precipitated a full response from police and the fire department. Ten police officers came to the scene. The man driving the car was found unconscious and was taken to Lawrence General Hospital with a second passenger.

Thursday, Nov. 13 – At 1:02 p.m., a two-car accident on Elm Street led to injuries.

Friday, Nov. 14 – At 2:50 p.m., a 12-year-old Andover boy was hit by a car on Elm Street while riding his bike and sustained minor injuries. Witnesses said the boy came off the sidewalk into the street and rode his bike into the car. The boy was thrown on the windshield, smashing it. The boy was conscious when the ambulance arrived, but complained of leg pain. His face was also scraped. The boy was wearing a helmet, said police, which probably protected him from greater injuries.

Saturday, Nov. 15 – At 8:55 a.m., on Dascomb Road a deer struck a vehicle, injuring the driver. The deer was put down.

Monday, Nov. 17 – At 2:32 a.m., an accident on Clark Road led to injuries.

Tuesday, Nov. 18 – At 7:50 a.m., there was a crash on Main Street with injuries.

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Education

Writers Block

Literary AHS crew sharpens quills for anthology

By Ben Hellman

THEY ARE PROBABLY the only students at Andover High School who rush to class with personal pieces of writing, genuinely excited to have their peers "tear it apart."

Andover High School English teacher Ron Howland refers to them jokingly as the "Algonquin Club," after the group of Manhattan artists who assembled nightly at the Algonquin Hotel round table.

The description is apt. The students meet weekly in a conference room to discuss writing. They bring in pieces by authors they admire. They also bring in their own writing — often personal stuff — and then they do what they call "tearing it apart."

"We've got to make fun of something, otherwise, what's the point?" said Howland segueing to the reading of a student piece last week. It is a friendlier process than it sounds. They read a peer's piece and talk about what they like and what doesn't work for them. Criticism is doled out, along with compliments. "It's a passion for writing," said Howland, a published poet himself.

Last week, the students read a short story one of them wrote, and one of the students compared the opening sentence to William Faulkner's writing. Later the group grilled the piece, making fun of some of writer's metaphors, while appreciating other points. They also read a short story by John Updike.

The group formed when Principal Peter Anderson discovered in conversations with individual students that they all



Passion for writing — Ron Howland (center), an Andover High School English teacher, holds court in the conference room where students meet weekly. The students will showcase their writing in a published anthology, Howland said.

wanted to write. Anderson has long bemoaned the supremacy of teaching kids by asking them to write a five-paragraph essay, saying it is counterproductive. "We've discouraged kids from writing in school," said Anderson. This group was a way to reach out to kids who wanted to write.

Howland had big news for the group last week. It has been his goal to create a literary anthology on a professional scale that includes students' work. Howland also wants the anthology to contain contributions from published writers and talented unpublished writers from Andover. He told the students he has finally found a

publisher for such a journal.

"The good news is we have a commitment with a publisher," said Howland. The bad news, he added, is that now everyone has a deadline to meet. He expects to release a call for manuscripts from the public soon.

The group has been a welcome addition to the school day, said many of the writers.

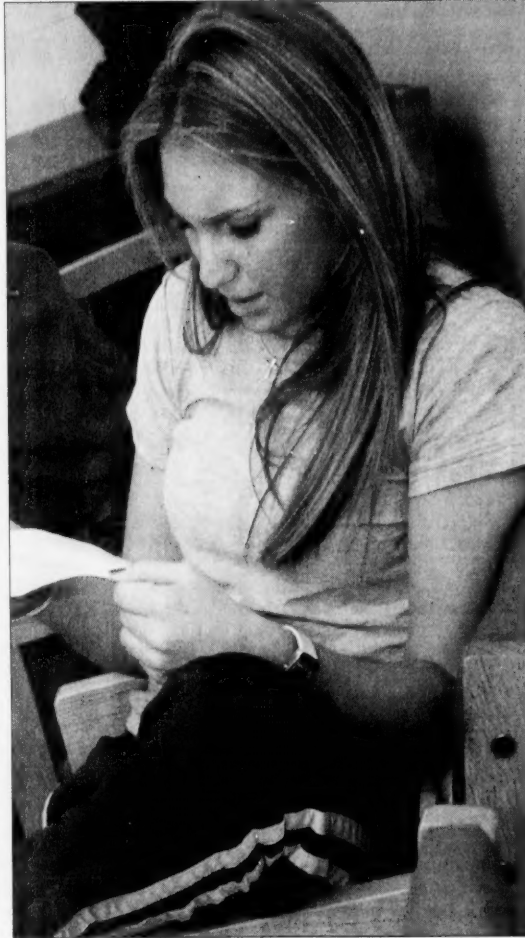
Senior Brittany Wadbrook, the sole female writer, said she has to overcome the "stereotypical blonde girl" image in life, but her writing group peers judge her writing.

Wadbrook brings poetry to the group. She said her writing is more emotional than that of

many of the guys, but they take it seriously and give her good feedback. It can be scary giving personal work to others to read and critique — "This means so much to me — please rip it apart," she said — but the students believe the group makes it worthwhile.

Junior John Downey said he wasn't doing much writing before joining the writing group. "Just English class, and I was good at it," he said. In the group, he gets encouragement and feedback. "I get honest opinions from people," he said. "It was scary the first day. Second day, no fear at all. That's how much I like these guys."

Most of the students didn't



Brittany Wadbrook, the only female in the writing group, reads in Ronald Howland's English class on Friday, Nov. 7.

know each other before September, when they started meeting for the writing group. Many said they probably wouldn't have met if it weren't for the group. Senior David Tanklefsky said the group works better because of this. "It's become a group that can work well together," he said.

LUNCH MENUS

Here's what's for lunch in the Andover public schools next week, Nov. 24-28:

Elementary schools

Monday: Mac and cheese nuggets, baked chicken nuggets, slice of pizza, fruit, veggie and milk.

Tuesday: Tuna salad with pretzel and strawberries, chocolate chip pancakes, pizza stick with soft pretzel, fruit, veggie and milk.

Wednesday: Early Release.

Thursday: Thanksgiving Recess.

Friday: Thanksgiving Recess.

Doherty Middle School

Monday: Waffles with sausage, pizza stick with soft pretzel, nachos with taco meat and cheese, fruit, veggie and milk.

Tuesday: Two beefy burritos, stuffed crust pizza, baked chicken nuggets, fruit, veggie and milk.

Wednesday: Early Release.

Thursday: Thanksgiving Recess.

Friday: Thanksgiving Recess.

Secondary schools

Monday: Two beefy burritos, macaroni and meatballs, stuffed crust pizza, fruit, veggie and milk.

Tuesday: Hot turkey sandwich, meatball sub with chips, bakery pizza, fruit, veggie and milk.

Wednesday: Early Release.

Thursday: Thanksgiving Recess.

Friday: Thanksgiving Recess.

□ □ □

For prices or other information about lunches, call Karen Pappa, food services director, at 978-623-8622.



Yasmin Mandviwala, vice president of the AHS chapter of the National Honor Society, lights the candle representing character at the start of the induction ceremony last Thursday, Nov. 13 in the Collins Center.

National Honor Society

25 honored at AHS

By Ben Hellman

Students made Principal Peter Anderson an honorary member of the National Honor Society last week.

Anderson admitted to students two years ago that he had been barred from his high school National Honor Society because he got in trouble with the school librarian, who ran the society at his school.

"It wasn't my fault," said Anderson. A friend grabbed his stocking cap and threw it on a chandelier at school. It got stuck there and began to smolder. When the librarian came on the scene, Anderson got the blame. "He didn't have a sense of humor about it," said Anderson.

Twenty-five students were also inducted into the society on Thursday night. The evening was marked by a candle-lighting ceremony and student musical performances. Members Lynette Toomey and Ryan Durkin performed the song *Whistle*

Down the Wind. Student Erin Arai played harp; Sara Barmettler played the zither.

To be eligible for induction, students are judged by a faculty council. Scholarship, character, service and leadership are judged. There are NHS chapters in more than 75 percent of US high schools. Teachers Marcia Harol and Kathleen Zalla are the group's advisers.

The following students were inducted into the society last Thursday: Christina Casey, Ann Marie Cashman, Roopa Chari, Alexander Day, Caitlin Delaney, Alfred Eng, Heather Flemming, Erica Ginsberg, Brian Hsieh, Amanda Kaminski, Mary Keohane, Rithika Mathias, Sarah Morgan, Tracy O'Malley, Jennifer Palermo, Kristin Pinksten, James Primes, Ayesha Rabbani, Garrett Rayner, Erin Saunders, Alexander Seletsky, Oleg Seletsky, Jessie Shields, Leslie Willey and Michael Zakin.

Town of Andover

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SCHOOL TALK

Andover School of Montessori (ASM) celebrated its first Founders Day on Nov. 5. Founders Day, which will be an annual event, gives the ASM community of current and past students, parents, faculty and staff the opportunity to come together and celebrate its beginning. For this year's event, ASM's founding families, longtime Andover resi-

dents William and Mary Peck and Kenneth and Egle Pedini, were the guests of honor.

In 1975, these parents built a school for their children based on the teachings of Maria Montessori, who 100 years ago discovered that, given the opportunity and proper learning environment, children will enjoy learning, share their knowl-

edge as mentors, care for their surroundings, and learn to treat all people with respect.

ASM 28 years later continues the tradition of individual-focused, quality education for children from age 3 through middle school.

As part of its Founders Day celebration, the children prepared a program of song and poetry in honor of

the founding families. The program concluded with a tree planting, which will become a traditional part of the annual celebration.

Former longtime Andover residents William and Mary Peck and Kenneth and Egle Pedini started the Andover School of Montessori in a small classroom 28 years ago. ▶



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Ronald Zagaja's office is located in the Andover Counseling Center at Chestnut Green, Building 565, Suite 81, on Rte. 114 in North Andover. He can be reached at (978) 682-1579. His web site is: www.andovercounseling.com.

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Opinion

Defying the odds

No one expected state Sen. Sue Tucker to be able to stop a rolling tank earlier this month – the Senate plan being rushed into action, looking to raise a quick \$400 million to offset the budget deficit.

Doubling down, the plan called for licensing two resort casinos – possibly near New Bedford and Worcester or Springfield. It would also permit slot machines at the state's four racetracks – in Revere, East Boston, Raynham and Plainville.

Under the plan sponsored by Senate Republican Leader Brian Lees of East Longmeadow, bidding on each of the resort casino licenses would have started at \$150 million. And each of the four racetracks in the state could install between 1,000 and 1,500 video slot machines, with the Commonwealth collecting \$25 million for each license.

The first two racetracks, the closest ones to Andover, are located in Senate President Robert Travaglini's district, home to Wonderland dog track and Suffolk Downs horse track.

Although Travaglini, the Democrat from East Boston, supported the casino-and-slots plan, he still named Tucker vice-chairwoman of the committee studying the issue. Visiting the *Townsmen* two months ago, he said, "I promised Sen. Tucker I was not going to weigh in or influence the discussion in any form. Anybody who wants to talk to me about this issue does not get in and see me. I've spoken to nobody about this issue. Nobody."

With Travaglini beside her, Tucker indicated that the issue deserved debate and was anything but a sure thing; and earlier this month she made good on that opinion, proving her determination. She thoroughly convinced undecided legislators that they would come to regret supporting casino gambling, especially once they looked at its real, "staggering" costs. The shock waves it would send across the Commonwealth meant that the issue warranted more debate.

Tucker stood firm, and the unexpected happened. The tank's rolling gears began to grind as it shifted into reverse and started rolling backwards.

Lees, the senator from East Longmeadow, pulled his casino-and-slots proposal, reversing his earlier predictions that it would easily win approval.

The issue is expected to hibernate until spring, when a marginally improving economy, a possible statewide referendum question and a presidential primary in March could all become factors influencing whether casino gambling resurfaces for more debate.

Web question

How should schools comply with state's demand for more hours?

Last week's *Townsmen* Web site question was:

If given the chance to be on a show such as *Extreme Makeover*, would you go on the show for free plastic surgery and a new look? A total of 37 persons voted.

► 7, or 19 percent, said, "Yes, of course I'd like to look better, and why not – it's free."

► 1, or 3 percent, said, "Yes, I'd feel good about going on the show because it shows how appearances affect people's confidence."

► 7, or 19 percent, said, "No, I'd consider plastic surgery, but I wouldn't do it on TV."

► 19, or 51 percent, said, "No, I am happy with myself the way I am, and I'd never have plastic surgery to change the way I look."

► 3, or 8 percent, voted "Other."

THIS WEEK'S WEB QUESTION:

The state has mandated that Andover increase the number of hours students at Andover High School receive this year. How should leaders go about complying with the state mandate?

► The school department should find the money in its existing budget.

► Town departments should cut their budgets to meet the mandate.

► An emergency Town Meeting should be called to solve the problem.

► Defy the state mandate until the state starts funding Andover with more education money.

► The town leaders need to solve the problem. That's what they were elected to do.

► Ask for a waiver.

► Other.

To vote, surf to: <www.andovertownsmen.com>.

ULTIMATE TOY SOLDIER

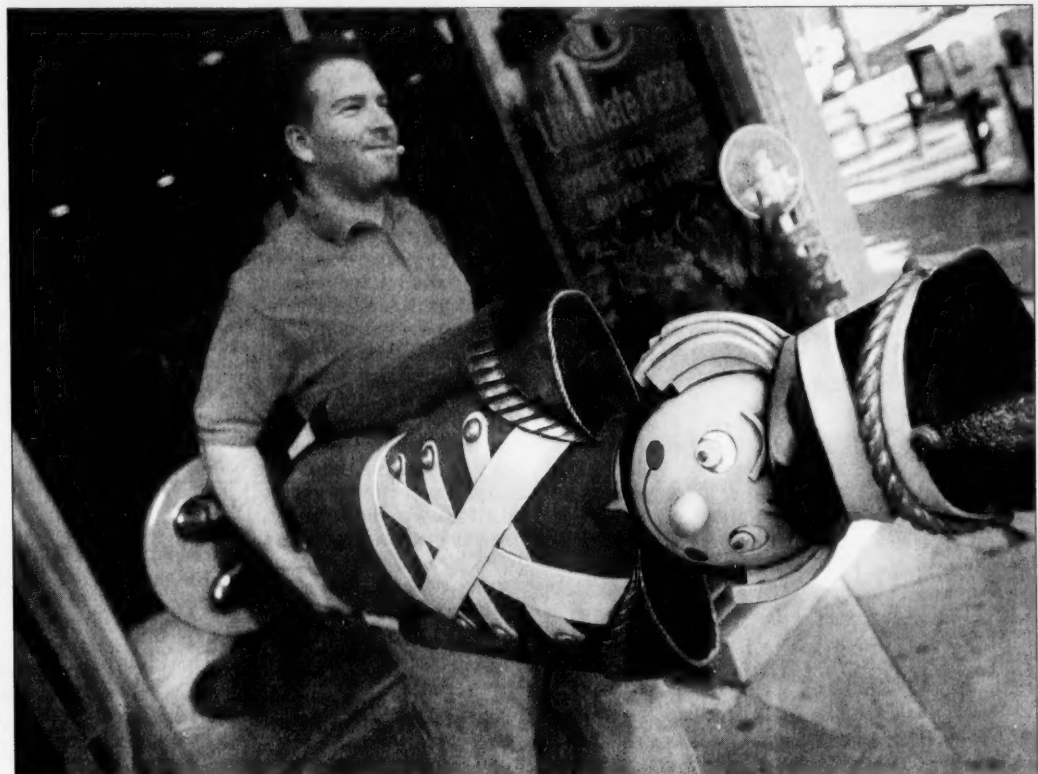


PHOTO BY TIM JEAN

Rich Hadad has the holiday spirit, as he carries a life-size toy soldier to decorate Ultimate Perk on Main Street, the coffee shop he owns with his wife, Toni. The Hadads put holiday decorations outside their shop on Tuesday. With all that coffee, the soldier shouldn't have any trouble staying wide-eyed during the holiday season.

LETTERS

Schools need financial support

Editor, *Townsmen*:

On Nov. 12, I attended the Massachusetts Computer Using Educators Conference in Sturbridge in two capacities. I was there as part of my job as technology coordinator for Adult Basic Education programs in the northeast region of Massachusetts. But I also turned out to be there as a proud South Elementary School parent who was fortunate enough to attend the presentation of the Pathfinder Award to South principal, Dr. Eileen Woods. This award was given to Woods in recognition of her leadership in fostering the use of technology at South School. Indirectly, it was also a recognition of the great job all the staff at South School are doing for our children.

While I am proud to be a South School parent and grateful for the terrific job of South School staff, I am concerned that our community is not giving them or the rest of our school system the resources to continue to perform at such a high level. To a large extent, the current achievements of the Andover school system are a result of investments made in the 1990s. I fear that the disinvestments of the past two years will soon start to have a negative impact on the performance of our schools.

Our Andover schools, staff, and students have all proven that they can be very successful and that they deserve our support. We must reward that achievement, not only with our praise, but also with a greater investment in the future of our schools.

Kenneth Tamarkin
22 Willard Circle

LETTERS POLICY

THE *Townsmen* accepts letters to the editor from the community. Letters must be typed and no longer than two, double-spaced pages. All letter writers must include addresses and phone numbers with their letters. The phone numbers will not be published.

The paper reserves the right to edit letters at its discretion. Reasons for editing include editing for length, clarity and style.

Letters should be received by the *Townsmen* by Monday at 5 p.m. for consideration in that week's paper. They may be sent by mail, fax or e-mail. As a general rule, the paper does not publish anonymous letters or thank-you letters.

It also does not publish letters for candidates in the issue prior to an election.

National Hospice Month includes Thanksgiving

Editor, *Townsmen*:

When a patient chooses hospice care, they are making the choice to complete their life's journey with the support of specially trained staff, along with their family and friends. They embrace hospice staff into their home, into their lives and into their hearts. In return, each hospice patient leaves an impression in our clinicians, chaplains, counselors, home health aides, volunteers and office personnel.

November marks National Hospice Month, and while reflecting on the past year I have noticed a substantial increase in the number of patients cared for by Merrimack Valley Hospice. Serving more than 1,200 patients directly illustrates that the community is accepting the message of hospice, with families making the choice to seek guidance and support during

difficult times. We have been working closely with area physicians in patient education and introducing the hospice options when curative treatments have exhausted. The staff at Merrimack Valley Hospice is committed to providing the highest quality of emotional, spiritual and medical care for those who are facing life limiting illnesses and their families.

Our staff is second to none. Their genuine compassion and dedication to the important work they do is truly inspiring. Assisting patients with pain and symptom management, therapy and supportive services only scratches the surface. Our staff are the hands they hold as they make difficult decisions, the voices they hear as a volunteer reads to them or the kind efforts they feel of the home health aide who gives them

a cleansing bath. These small gestures make the true impact. Family members are given the opportunity to cherish the remaining moments with their loved one through our support. We continue our care long after our patient has died by following the family for 13 months through our bereavement program and encouraging them to grieve for their loved one.

This November as we give thanks for the blessing we have, I honor the hard work and unwavering efforts of the hospice staff I work with each and every day. Their commitment to the care we provide is exceptional, and this letter is a small testament of our gratitude.

Gail Spera, RN
Vice president
Merrimack Valley Hospice
360 Merrimack St.
Lawrence

Tooting the horn of Knights' Tootsie Roll patrons

Editor, *Townsmen*:

To Andover residents and friends,

The Andover Knights of Columbus No. 1078 wishes to acknowledge the people of the town for their generous support of our annual Tootsie Roll drive. Through your contributions and the help of the merchants who allow us to stand by their facilities, the Andover K of C exceeded last year's collections.

These funds become part of a Mass State K of C Charity fund that has donated more than \$629,000 (YTD September) in

support of physically and otherwise challenged children and young adults.

Andover receives a direct benefit as needy local people have received chair lifts for vans, special computer learning tools, hearing aides, rehabilitation and other equipment which helps challenged children to more fully reach their potential. There is a current local grant proposal to fund equipment in amounts exceeding this year's in town donations.

Merchants including the Mobil stations, Shawsheen

Dunkin' Donuts, and Market Basket, as well as the 52 participating brother knights, and co-chairmen Andrew Szendey and Mike Toth, as well as those who donate, have helped a truly worthy cause.

...And since I have been asked on the street...Yes, 100 percent of the money, after paying for the Tootsie rolls, goes to charity.

Chuck Lane
Grand Knight
Andover Knights of
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THE THURSDAY FILE

Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.
RALPH WALDO EMERSON

Having once decided to achieve a certain task, achieve it at all costs of tedium and distaste. The gain in self confidence of having accomplished a tiresome labor is immense.
THOMAS BENNETT

It's the friends you can call up at 4 a.m. that matter.
MARLENE DIETRICH

In my friend, I find a second self.
ISABEL NORTON

An idea that wins ultimately does so because of intelligent seeding.
SETH GODIN

Shared joy is a double joy; shared sorrow is half a sorrow.
SWEDISH PROVERB

Don't talk about yourself. You must either praise yourself, which is vanity, or criticize yourself, which is meekness. You show a lack of good judgment and become a nuisance to others. If this is important among friends, it is even more so in high positions, where one often speaks in public and where any appearance of vanity passes for foolishness. Nor is it prudent to talk about people who are present. You risk running aground on flattery or vituperation.
BALTASAR GRACIAN

Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.
MARK TWAIN

One often hears the remark, "He talks too much," but when did anyone last hear the criticism, "He listens too much?"
NORMAN AUGUSTINE

The Eleanor Roosevelt quotation
The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.

Best quotation sent
You must learn to be still in the midst of activity, and to be vibrantly alive in repose.
INDIRA GANDHI

About 'Thursday File'

Steve MacDowall started the file on the Internet. The Web site for his creation is www.hudson-vanloo.ca and it suggests books to read and offers quotations such as the ones on this page.

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OBITUARIES

Riitta A. Minkkinen

Was a nurse in Finland

Riitta A. (Peussa) Minkkinen, 92, died Tuesday, Nov. 11 at Wingate Nursing Home in Andover after complications from surgery. She would have turned 93 this Saturday.



Riitta Minkkinen

She was born in Koivisto, Finland and her family lived on the island of Tiuri (now Russia) on the Gulf of Finland, where her grandparents once hosted Czar Nicholas II's entourage for afternoon tea.

She met her late husband, Reino J. Minkkinen, before the outbreak of World War II. He was in the Finnish Cavalry Regiment and was convalescing in a military hospital in Viipuri. She was the night nurse assigned to his ward.

In 1939, two weeks before the Winter War with Russia broke out, they were married.

The family immigrated to America in 1951 and settled in Brooklyn, N.Y. Mrs. Minkkinen worked as a nurse in the pediatric ward of the Lutheran Medical Center in Brooklyn while her husband was an architect at the Consulate General of Finland in Manhattan.

Mr. Minkkinen died in 1966.

Mrs. Minkkinen received her registered nurse license from the University of the State of New York in 1975, the year of her retirement. Four years later, she graduated with a bachelor's degree from St. Francis College in Brooklyn at the age of 69.

In 1977 she moved to Marland Place in Andover and spent her final years at Wingate.

Members of her family include three sons and their families, Timo and Irene Minkkinen of Bushkill, Pa.; Ari and Tanette Minkkinen of Paris, France; and Arno Rafael and Sandra Minkkinen of Andover; five grandchildren, Erik, Karl, Daniel, Florent and Marieke; and one great-grandchild, Luka.

Her remains will be brought to Finland to be buried at Hietaniemi Cemetery alongside her husband.

A memorial service was held last Thursday, Nov. 13 at Burke Funeral Home in Andover. That day marked her 64th wedding anniversary.

Richard C. Comins

Punchard '34 grad was woollens buyer for Grieco Brothers

Richard Coolidge Comins, 88, a former longtime resident of Andover, died Thursday, Nov. 13 of complications from pneumonia at Springhouse Westwood, an assisted living residence, in Bethesda, Md.

Mr. Comins was born in Springfield and grew up in Longmeadow.

The family later moved to the Ballardvale section of Andover and he graduated from Punchard High School in 1934. He received an engineering degree in 1939 from Lowell Textile Institute.

In World War II, Mr. Comins became a first lieutenant in the 83rd Infantry Division of the 329th Infantry Regiment, "Thunderbolt Across Europe." He was wounded in Normandy in 1944 and was awarded a Purple Heart.

He became an accomplished woollens buyer for Grieco Brothers store, Southwick, a men's clothing manufacturer in Lawrence, where he worked for 24 years before co-founding Lanham Clothes, in Lawrence.

He is a former member of South Church in Andover, where he taught Sunday school.

He was an avid fisherman, and in retirement became an accomplished gardening enthusiast, his family said.

Members of his family include two children, Gary Comins of Methuen, and Claudia Comins of Takoma Park, Md.; a sister, Muriel Labbe of Jacksonville, Fla.; two grandchildren; and four nephews.

A memorial service for family and close friends will be held this Saturday, Nov. 22.

Memorial contributions may be sent to the Sierra Club, 85 Second St., San Francisco, CA 94105; World Wildlife Fund, 1250 Twenty-Fourth St., NW, PO Box 97180, Washington, DC 20090-7180; or c/o Ronald Platt Jr., 83rd Infantry Division Association, PO Box 695, Sanbornville, NH 03872.



Richard Comins

Fred T. Torrisi

Jackson Lumber co-founder was purchasing agent

Fred T. Torrisi, 89, one of the co-founders of Jackson Lumber Co. in Lawrence, died Monday, Nov. 17 at Academy Manor Nursing Home in Andover.

Born in Lawrence, he was educated at Holy Rosary Grammar School and graduated from Lawrence High School in 1932.

He worked as a construction foreman for Torrisi and Fichera Construction until his induction into the US Army in 1941. He completed officer training in North Carolina and quickly moved up the ranks after completing Army intelligence school in Maryland. He served in the Pacific theater during World War II.

In 1946, Mr. Torrisi, along with his brothers Joe, Tom, Sam and Sam Caruso incorporated Jackson Lumber Co., then located at 10 Jackson St., Lawrence.

He devoted the next 30 years of his life as purchasing agent for the company until his retirement in 1976. He was proud of its continued growth and prosperity throughout the years, having become one of the most successful local family-run businesses in the area, his family said.

He was a member of Kiwanis for more than 40 years, having served as president in 1967.

He was a member of the Holy Name Society of Holy Rosary Church, the Holy Family Hospital Men's Guild, Presentation of Mary's Men's Guild and the Northeast Lumberman's Association, and an active member of the Italian American Civic Association for more than 50 years.

He was the widower of Angelina (Polizzotti) Torrisi.

Members of his family include his children, Josephine and her husband James Lennertz of Easton, Pa., and Thomas Torrisi and his wife Charlene of Methuen; sister, Antoinette Zapala of Connecticut; sisters-in-law, Elvira Torrisi of Andover and Anna Brocato and her husband Harry of Lawrence; seven grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

He was also the father of the late Constance (Torrisi) Hennessy.

Arrangements were by the Cataudella Funeral Home, 126 Pleasant Valley St., Lawrence.

Gladys T. Cebula

Formerly of Andover

Gladys T. (Small) Cebula, 90, of North Andover and formerly of Andover, died Saturday, Nov. 15 at her home.

DEATHS

Thelma Carmichael, 79
Gladys T. Cebula, 90
Samuel A. Ciaraldi Jr., 63
Richard C. Comins, 88
Michael Grieco, 109
Irene Lemay, 85
Solveig Menard, 78
Riitta A. Minkkinen, 92
Virginia S. Niziak, 78
Francis J. Piekarski, 67
Hugh F. Stewart, 89
Phyllis M. Storms, 63
Fred T. Torrisi, 89

DEATHS ELSEWHERE

CIARALDI - Samuel A. Ciaraldi Jr., 63, of Salem, N.H., died Thursday, Nov. 13 at home. Members of his family include his mother, Lillian Ciaraldi of Andover.

GRIECO - Michael Grieco, 109, of Pharr, Texas, and a former resident of North Andover, died Thursday, Nov. 13 in Pharr, Texas, after a short illness. He had recently received a recognition award from the governor of the Texas as the oldest living man in Texas. Members of his family include his niece, Edna (Grieco) Thomas of Andover.

MENARD - Solveig (Kristiansen) Menard, 78, of Groveland, died Thursday, Nov. 13 at Pen-

cook Place in Haverhill. Mrs. Menard was a member of Faith Lutheran Church in Andover.

PIEKARSKI - Francis J. Piekarski, 67, of North Andover, died Saturday, Nov. 15 at his home. He was a research engineer for many years at Raytheon Corp. at both the Lexington and Andover plants, and was a member of South Church in Andover.

STORMS - Phyllis M. (Cutter) Storms, 63, of Methuen, died Monday, Nov. 17 at home. She was an assembler at Raytheon in Andover for more than 30 years.

day, Nov. 15 at her home.

She was born in North Andover.

She was one of nine children and was pre-deceased by four brothers and four sisters.

Members of her family include her husband of 61 years, Frederick J. Cebula; sons and daughters-in-law, Frederick J. and Mary Cebula of Derry, N.H., Michael J. Cebula of Newburyport, Kevin J. Cebula of Kennebunk, Maine, Gary S. and Susan Cebula of South Lawrence; daughter and son-in-law, Kathryn J. and Neal Sanders of Newburyport; 10 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

At the request of the family there were no calling hours.

Cremation took place at Linwood Crematory.

Memorial contributions may be made to Merrimack Valley Visiting Nurse Association, 360 Merrimack St., Lawrence, MA 01843.

Hugh F. Stewart

Calling hours are today

Hugh F. Stewart, 89, of Andover, died Monday, Nov. 17 at Wingate Nursing Home.

Born in Lawrence, Mr. Stewart graduated from Lawrence High School and served in the Company A, 540th amphibious Tractor Battalion during World War II.

He was a member of St. Patrick Church.

He was the widower of Eileen M. (Lancot) Stewart.

Members of his family include sons, Joseph Stewart and his wife Susan of Holliston, and Edward Stewart and his wife Rayleen of Elliot; brothers, Joseph Stewart of Haverhill and Francis Stewart of Levittown, Pa.; four grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Memorial contributions may be made to Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley, 360 Merrimack St., Lawrence, MA 01843.

Calling hours are today, Thursday, Nov. 20 from 5 to 8 p.m. at Hart-Wallace Funeral

Home, 107 S. Broadway, Lawrence.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated tomorrow, Friday, Nov. 21 at 10 a.m. at St. Patrick Church, Lawrence.

Burial will follow in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, North Andover.

Virginia S. Niziak

Registered nurse was Punchard graduate

Virginia S. (Smillie) Niziak, R.N., 78, of North Andover, died Saturday, Nov. 15 at Lawrence General Hospital.

Born in Manchester, N.H., she was formerly of Andover and graduated from Punchard High School. She continued her education and graduated as a registered nurse from St. John's School of Nursing in Lowell.

She worked at the Clover Hill Hospital and at the Anlaw Nursing Home in Lawrence.

She was an avid Red Sox fan and a member of St. Michael's Church in North Andover.

Members of her family include her husband of 45 years, Walter F. Niziak; sons and daughters-in-law, Mark and Donna Niziak of Hopedale, Bradley and Elizabeth Niziak of Walpole, Drew and Paula Niziak of Dover, and Kurt Niziak of North Andover; daughter and son-in-law, Linda and Peter Volpe of Andover; 13 grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Memorial contributions may be made to The Marcus Foundation, c/o Sherin and Lodgen, 100 Summer St. Boston, MA 02110.

Arrangements were by Dewhurst & Conte Funeral Home, 17 Third St. North Andover.

Irene Lemay

Native of Andover

Irene Lemay, 85, of Methuen, died Thursday, Nov. 13 at

Mariner Health Care of Methuen.

She was born in Andover and educated in St. Anne's School in Lawrence.

She worked for the Bon Secours Hospital, now Caritas Holy Family Hospital, for more than 20 years until her retirement.

She loved to work in her yard and kept a wonderful home in Methuen, family members said.

Funeral arrangements were by the John Breen Memorial Funeral Home Inc. 122 Amesbury St., Lawrence.

Thelma Carmichael

Was real estate agent

Thelma Carmichael, 79, of Andover died Sunday, Nov. 16 at home.

Born in Andover, Mrs. Carmichael was a real estate agent at Darling Real Estate. She was a member of the Free Christian Church in Andover and the Andover Women's Club and volunteered at Holy Family Hospital's gift shop.

Members of her family include her husband, James G. Carmichael; daughters, Jamie Doubleday and her husband Raymond of Thomaston, Maine, Cynthia Lodise and her husband Michael of Danville, N.H., and Lee-Anne Leverone and her husband Richard of York, Maine; son, Dana Carmichael of Dallas, Tex.; three grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Memorial contributions may be made to Eagle Tribune Santa Fund, 100 Turnpike St., North Andover, MA 01845; or Merrimack Valley Hospice, 360 Merrimack St., Lawrence, MA 01843.

There were no calling hours. A memorial service will be held Saturday, Nov. 22 at 9 a.m. at the West Parish Garden Cemetery Chapel, Reservation Road.

Arrangements are by Burke Funeral Home, 390 N. Main St., Andover.

OBITUARIES ARE SUPPLIED BY
FUNERAL HOMES AND FAMILY MEMBERS

ALL THOSE YEARS AGO

100 Years Ago - 1903

C.V. Swanson has taken a position as bookkeeper in the big dried goods house of Jordan & Marsh Co., in Boston.

Arthur, young son of Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe Cole, sustained a bad break in his leg in a recent game of football in which he was engaged.

An exhibition of miniatures painted by Mrs. Emma F. Everett was held in the November Club house last Monday as a special feature of its first fall meeting.

Next Wednesday evening, Thanksgiving eve, the annual ball of the Andover Steam Fire Engine Co. will be held as usual

in the Town Hall. The final arrangements have been completed and the outlook is certainly promising for an enjoyable evening.

Supt. C. I. White of the Marland Mills is at the Haverhill Hospital, where he has just undergone an operation. His friends will wish that it may have been most successful and his recovery rapid.

The Phillips Academy students celebrated their victory over Lawrenceville last Saturday night in the usual manner. There was not as much enthusiasm shown as there would have been had the victory been over Exeter.

A merry time is in store for all those who attend the "mock graduation," which is to be held by the Baptist Young Women's Club in Pilgrim Hall on Monday

evening. The young ladies have spared no pains to make the affair most enjoyable.

Notices have been posted in various parts of the town by the Massachusetts Fish and Game Commission to the effect that Haggetts Pond has been stocked with fish and that fishing will be prohibited between the months of November and June for three years.

All lovers of the woods and especially those interested in hunting should attend the lecture by Burt Jones of Boston, next Tuesday evening in the Town Hall. The lecture will be all the more attractive as it will be illustrated by stereopticon views.

75 Years Ago - 1928

"The Kellogg Briand Multilateral Treaty must be ratified, and ratified without reserva-

tions. Seldom have I been so disturbed about international relations as at the present time," said Raymond Rich, executive director of the World Peace Foundation, speaking Tuesday before members of the Andover League of Women Voters.

The State Public Utilities commission, with one member, Louis Goldberg, dissenting on Saturday, dismissed the petition of numerous Andover subscribers of the New England Telephone and Telegraph Co., and that Andover be included in the Lawrence district of that company.

Miss Laura Parker of Elm Street spent the weekend in Concord, N.H.

Last Saturday Robert Abercrombie and Hartwell Abbott went to Amesbury by bicycle to witness the Punchard-Amesbury

football game.

A cottage house on Cuba Street, owned by Joseph McCarthy, formerly of Andover, now of Flint, Mich., has been sold to motorcycle officer David Gillespie of Brechin Terrace. The transfer was made by the W.H. Higgins Real Estate Agency.

Gladys and Isabel Deyermund, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Deyermund of Washington Avenue, are ill with chicken pox.

Wednesday evening, President William T. Holmes of Tougaloo College, Mississippi, spoke at the South Church on the college work. Everett Lawrence, an Andover boy, teaches at Tougaloo.

Two religious dramas "When Men Forget" and "The Glow Unseen" will be presented during the coming week at the Free Church.

One of the prettiest as well as one of the most amusing affairs ever held in the South Church vestries was the Noah's Ark bazaar, cafeteria supper and one-ring circus arranged by members of the A.P.C. sorority on Tuesday afternoon and evening.

50 Years Ago - 1953

Andover's volunteer community chest workers reached 100 per cent of their goal Monday night as they reported \$24,057 collected during the 1954 campaign, which ended today.

- Compiled by Townsman intern Kyra Auffermann

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Arts & Entertainment

EVENTS CALENDAR



On Saturday, Nov. 22 from 3 to 6 p.m., there will be a free reception for artist and painter Elizabeth Wadleigh Leary, whose acrylic "October Light" is shown above. Her exhibition is at Church Hill Gallery, 6 Inn St., Newburyport. Call 978-462-9891.

Thursday, November 20

Musical, The Who's *Tommy*, \$15, AHS students \$8 with ID, 7:30 p.m., Collins Center, Shawsheen Road; 978-623-8666.

Reading, author William Martin will read from his new book *Harvard Yard*, 7 p.m., Andover Bookstore, 89 Main St.; 978-475-0143.

Theater opening, *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)*, The Fringe Players, (a group of Northern Essex Community College theater alumni) benefit performance, \$20, 7:30 p.m., Firehouse Center for the Arts, Newburyport; 978-462-7336, www.firehouse.org.

Live music, John Wesley Harding, 8 p.m., \$13-\$15, Capo's, 98 Middle St., Lowell; 978-453-5755.

Musical, Austin Prep presents *Fame*, \$10, tickets at the door, Austin Prep School, 101 Willow St., MultiPurpose Facility, Reading, Krystyn Hanover, student activities 781-944-4900 Ext. 18.

Friday, November 21

Opening Reception, *Silent Poetry*, paintings from Ireland, free, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Lorica Artworks, 1 Elm Square, lower level; 978-470-1129, www.loricaartworks.com.

Live comedy, Paul D'Angelo, Danny Kelly, Mike O'Neil, \$12, 9:30 p.m., Comedy Escape at the China Blossom, North Andover; 781-938-8088.

Fall craft fair and art auction, festivities include a Texas chili supper to benefit Boy Scout troop 81, and a silent art auction featuring local artists, 6-8:30 p.m., Trinitarian Congregational Church, 72 Elm St., North Andover; 978-686-4445, www.natrinarian.org.

Festival of Trees, New Premier Night, 7 p.m. with the unveiling of fabulously decorated trees, opening night includes a gala party with food, spirits, and live music and awards ceremony; runs through Dec. 6, \$6, \$4 seniors, under 12 free, Valley Office Park, 13 Branch St., Methuen; 978-685-8878 or www.methuenfestivaloftrees.com.

Live music, two shows, Patty Larkin, 7 and 10 p.m., \$20-\$22, Capo's, 98 Middle St., Lowell; 978-453-5755.

Live music, Middlesex Community College's fall concert series *A World of Music* presents oboist John Ferillo, pianist Carmen Rodriguez-Peralta and Judith Kellock soprano, free, 7:30 p.m., MCC Theater, 5 E. Merrimack St., Lowell; 781-280-3923.

Tommy, see Nov. 20 entry.

Fame, see Nov. 20 entry.

Saturday, November 22

Book signing, illustrator Vicky Enright will sign copies of her new book *Read Anything Good Lately?* 3:30-4:30 p.m., Andover Book-

store, 89 Main St.; 978-475-0143.

Live music, the Spectrum Singers featuring Andover resident Carl Bewig will hold a pre-Advent and Christmas concert, 8 p.m., First Congregational Church, 11 Garden St., Cambridge; 617-492-8902.

Live music, Third Eye Blind, \$30, 8 p.m., Sakowich Campus Center Multi-Purpose Room, Merrimack College, North Andover, tickets at the Info Desk, first floor of the Sakowich Campus Center weekdays 9 a.m.-8 p.m. and weekends 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; 978-837-5930.

Audition, the Merrimack Valley Players are holding auditions for their spring play *Bathroom Humor*, 2-5 p.m., bring a monologue memorized 2-5 minutes long, First Baptist Church, Lawrence Street, Methuen, call for an audition slot 603-893-6226.

Miss Massachusetts Teen USA

pageant, Andover High School student Jenna Sico will be among the young women judged in swimsuit, evening gown and personal interview events, Marriott Hotel, Quincy; for tickets, times and directions call Jenna Sico 978-475-0412.

Live comedy, Paul D'Angelo, Danny Kelly, Mike O'Neil, \$12, 9:30 p.m., Comedy Escape at the China Blossom, North Andover; 781-938-8088.

Theater, Colonial Chorus Players presents *Working*, Andover residents include director Dana Bissett; choreographer Alice Pascucci; cast includes Ben Pascucci as Joe; Kathleen Wackowski as Mill Worker and ensemble member Mary Anne Ronan, \$12-\$15, 8 p.m., Parker Middle School, Reading; 781-944-9780, www.colonial-chorus.com.

Opera, Lowell Opera Company presents *Vivi Italia*, evening of Italian song featuring Andover resident soprano Christina Puntoni, 8 p.m., Lowell Senior Center, 276 Broadway, Lowell; 978-441-6926, www.operalowell.org.

The Greater Boston Antiques Festival, antiques exhibition with 160 antiques dealers from 11 states. Early preview 9 a.m. for \$10 admission, \$6 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Shriner's Auditorium, Wilmington; 781-862-4039, www.NEAntiqueShows.com.

Holiday fair, crafts, raffles Santa and more, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., New England Pediatric, 78 Boston Road, Billerica; all proceeds benefit multi-handicapped children and young adults at New England Pediatric Care; 978-667-5123.

Continued on page 12

Full circle for *Old School* author

Reading at Phillips a reconnection to Wolff's student days

By Andrea Gregory

A LARGE CROWD SPILLED OUT INTO the hallway last Friday evening at Phillips Academy, listening to the latest published work of well-known author Tobias Wolff. The setting was ideal for sharing an excerpt from his latest novel, *Old School*, which takes place in a New England private school where the students are visited by famous authors.

Listeners filled every seat in the room, while others stood leaning up against the walls, or sat on the floor. Many closed their eyes, letting the words of Wolff spring to life in their minds.

It has been said that *Old School* is his first novel, even with many well known and acclaimed literary works under his belt such as *This Boy's Life* and *In Pharaoh's Army*. But according to Wolff, this is not his first novel.

He said the reason *Old School* was publicized as such was simply because he never mentioned in the beginning of his writing career he had published a novel called *Ugly Rumors*.

"My publisher didn't know," he said.

Wolff said he was 30 when *Ugly Rumors* was published, and looking back, he admits he writes much better now. Around the same time his first novel went into circulation, Wolff had a short story published in *Atlantic Monthly*. It was his first American publication, and an introduction to an author with many stories to tell.

Wolff said the *Atlantic Monthly* piece, titled *Smokers*, was about boys in a boarding school.

"So I've come full circle," Wolff said with a slight laugh.

Having attended a private school similar to the one in his new novel and being identified with his emotional style of memoir writing, Wolff said many people wonder how much of the story is true.

"Certainly, I drew very heavily on my memories. I dipped my bucket deep in the well of memory for this, but it's not a memoir," he said. "It's an invented artifact in the end."

Wolff explains that the story draws from the years he spent in prep school, admiring

Continued on page 14



Author Tobias Wolff read from his new novel, *Old School*, last Friday night at Phillips Academy.

Rehearsing 800 songs a year

Local boy, 11, singing in choir school

By Andrea Gregory

THE SOFT, HIGH SOUND OF BOY SOPRANO voices carry to the rafters at St. Thomas Church on 5th Street in Manhattan. Among the young voices of the St. Thomas Choir is that of 11-year-old Connor Hoff, of Andover.

During the fourth grade, Connor began attending the Saint Thomas Choir School on 58th Street in New York, after passing an audition. Out of 40 boys who sang at the audition, the choir school selected Connor and six other boys.

Connor has a strong voice for such a

young boy and reached the top level of the choir in his first year.

According to the school's Web site, Saint Thomas Choir School is the only choir boarding school in New York City and the only church-affiliated boarding choir school in North America. Its maximum enrollment is 40 boys. The boys of the school sing with professional male singers.

Connor talks about his school days as almost any 11-year-old would. He mentions what times he wakes up, what classes he takes and how each Friday is movie night.

"It's basically a regular school," said Connor.

The school's heavy focus on singing has Connor rehearsing 800 songs a year, though he does not sing on Mondays and during school breaks. There are the concerts and a chance to travel to many places around the world. In April, Connor will be heading for Italy and will perform in the Sistine Chapel. Previous audience members of the choir's performances have included former President Bill Clinton and Prime Minister Tony Blair.

"It's quite an experience for me," said Connor.

"It's just a wonderful place. It's famous in the world of choirs," said Joanne Hoff, Connor's mother. "The love of singing is a very important part. Connor has been singing since he was 4."

The Hoff family lives on Chapman Avenue in Andover. Though it was a big decision to have a family member live in another state, Joanne Hoff said she does not think of the situation as sending her son away.

"You let your children lead you. I'm sending Connor to something. We try to go every other weekend. Robert (my husband) and I made a real commitment to that," she said. "We talk to him every night on the phone."

Two years since he began attending St. Thomas, Connor, now in the sixth grade, has seen his class dwindle to three boys. He said he has a strong commitment to graduate, which means remaining through the eighth grade. Connor said he saw some of his classmates get homesick or decide the school was not right for them.

Relying on phone calls and family visits can be hard for a child, and after his first year, Connor was struck with his own case

Continued on page 15



Featured in the comedy "Bell, Book, and Candle" at the Amesbury Playhouse are, from left, Gerry and Jackie Foss of Amesbury, and Joy Hasselbacher of Bradford. The show runs through Nov. 30. Call 978-388-9444 for reservations.



Connor Hoff of Chapman Avenue attends Saint Thomas Choir School in New York City.

EVENTS CALENDAR

■ NOV. 20 THRU NOV. 30
Continued from page 12

bara and Al Boudreau Jazz Quartet featuring Jack Senior and Mark Carlsen, 5-9 p.m., reservations recommended, Ipswich Bar and Grill, Ipswich; 978-356-7006.

Live music, pianist Jacqueline Schwab, free, 2 p.m., Memorial Hall Library; 978-623-8401.
Tommy, 2 p.m., see Nov. 20 entry.
Fame, 2 p.m., see Nov. 20 entry.

The Greater Boston Antiques Festival, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., see Nov. 22 entry.

Working, 2 p.m., see Nov. 23 entry.

Monday, November 24

No scheduled events.

Tuesday, November 25

Live music, the Dave Whitney Quartet, 5-7:30 p.m., Roma Restaurant, 29 Middlesex St., Bradford; 978-374-8001.

Wednesday, November 26

Live music, open mic with Rachel McCartney, Capo's, 98 Middle St., Lowell; 978-453-5755.

Thursday, November 27**Thanksgiving**

Feaster Five, hosted by Merrimack Valley Striders, Kid's K, \$5, 8 a.m.; 5 K run and walk 8:30 a.m.; 5-mile run and walk, 8:30 a.m., \$22, \$25 after Nov. 23, race day entries accepted; Dave McGilivray Sports Enterprises Inc. 978-258-8226, www.feasterfive.com.

Thanksgiving service, all are welcome, the service includes reading for the occasion, and an opportunity for those attending to express their thoughts and gratitude, 10:30 a.m., First Church of Christ, Scientist, 287 North Main St.; 978-475-3213.
Road Race, Alternative House annual Thanks-for-Giving road race, \$15-\$20, 8 a.m., all proceeds benefit Alternative House's transitional housing program, Lowell Lodge Elks, Old Ferry Road, Lowell for more information call: 978-937-5777, www.coolrunning.com.

Friday, November 28

Live comedy, Dick Doherty, Sam Walters, Anne Maneikis, 12, 9:30 p.m., Comedy Escape at the China Blossom, North Andover; 781-938-8088.

Theater, Stoneham Theatre presents *A Christmas Carol*, \$32, \$27 seniors, and \$16 for students and children, 8 p.m., Stoneham Theatre, 395 Main St., Stoneham; tickets 781-279-2200 or online at www.stonehamtheatre.org.

Saturday, November 29

Wreath sale, Andover High School Marching Band wreath sale, 8 a.m.-noon, Old Town Hall; Susan Spollett 978-475-6356.

Tree lighting, Brickstone Square's annual Holiday Tree Lighting, free, festivities begin 5:30 p.m., tree lighting 6 p.m., rain or shine Brickstone Square, 200 Brickstone Square, all attending are encouraged to bring a new unwrapped toy for the Toys for Tots program; 978-475-4000.

Live comedy, Dick Doherty, Sam Walters, Anne Maneikis, 12, 9:30 p.m., Comedy Escape at the China Blossom, North Andover; 781-938-8088.

Live music, two shows, Turkey Hollow, 7 p.m., \$10-\$12, Evan Goodrow Band, \$5, 10 p.m., Capo's, 98 Middle St., Lowell; 978-453-5755.

Live music, Ethan Bessey, 8 p.m., Crescent Dragon Gallery and Cafe, 59 Washington St., Haverhill; call for prices 978-372-5441, www.crescentdragon.com.

Theater, performance of *Oklahoma*, Andover resident Timothy Smith worked on set design, \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors and students, 7:30 p.m., Kaneb Theatre, Alumni Hall, on the school campus, 72 Spring St., Danvers; tickets may be purchased in advance by e-mailing rsantoro@stjohnsprep.org, or calling 978-774-1050 Ext. 377, and the box office on school days from 3 to 5 p.m. and at the door as available.

Winter fair, the Salem Main Streets Initiative presents the annual Winter Welcome holiday open house noon to 5 p.m., featuring local merchants from downtown, Pickering Wharf, and the waterfront district, Main St., Salem; 978-740-1208.

A Christmas Carol, 8 p.m., see Nov. 28 entry.

Sunday, November 30

A Christmas Carol, 1 and 5 p.m., see Nov. 28

entry.

Oklahoma, 2:30 p.m., see Nov. 29 entry.

Ongoing Art Exhibitions

Addison Gallery of American Art, Stephen Greene: *Painter and Mentor*, through Jan. 4; gallery hours Tuesday - Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday 1-5 p.m., Addison Gallery of American Art, Phillips Academy; 978-749-4015 www.addisongallery.org.

Alpers Fine Art of Andover, *Two Voices* through Nov. 30, gallery hours; Wednesday and Thursdays 11 a.m.-8 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 2 Main St.; 978-470-0013.

Andover Historical Society, artist Doug Johnson; exhibit *Lucy's Acre: A Place in Time*, tour the Amos Blanchard House and Barn Museum for a glimpse into life in the early 19th century, Tuesday through Friday 1-4 p.m., \$5 admission, students \$3, 97 Main St.; 978-475-2236, www.andhist.org.

Robert S. Peabody Museum of Archaeology, *Objects and their Meanings: Historical Highlights of the Peabody*, displays ethnographic objects from the museum's collections of North and South America and a series of photographs that illustrate the activities of the museum's key people during the last century; Tuesday through Saturday, noon-5 p.m., by appointment only, free admission, Phillips Academy campus, 175 Main St.; 978-749-4490.

Essex Art Center, through Dec. 12, Main Gallery *Annual Juried Show*, Elizabeth Beland Gallery, Kelly Kaczynski Installation, Tuesday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Friday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-2 p.m., 56 Island St., Lawrence; 978-685-2343.

Arthur Griffin Center for Photographic Art, Main Gallery, *Jan Staller: A Retrospective*, through Nov. 28; *Emerging Artists Gallery*, *Hard Boys & Bad Girls*, through Jan. 15, Tuesday-Sunday, noon to 4 p.m., \$5 admission, Thursday admission is free all day, 67 Shore Road.

Continued on page 14

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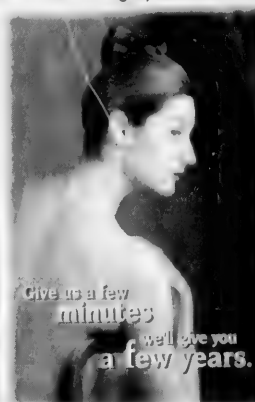
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EVENTS CALENDAR

ONGOING

Continued from page 13

Winchester: 781-729-1158, www.elliottandson.com

Brush Art Gallery, through Jan. 4. PHOTO2003 Black and White Classic Juried Photography Show, hours Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday, noon-4 p.m., 256 Market St., Lowell: 978-459-7819.

McCoy Gallery, through Nov. 21, artist Steven Careau's exhibit "Fagons" works on paper and in metal, Merrimack College: 978-837-5000, Ext. 4205.

Whittier House Museum of Art, Wednesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., 54, 243 Worthen St., Lowell: 978-452-7641.

Sakowich Campus Center, at Merrimack College, the Fireside and first floor lounge, call for hours;

978-837-5000, Ext. 4205.

McQuade Gallery, gallery hours Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m.-11 p.m., Friday 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Sunday, 11 a.m.-11 p.m.; closed weekends in January; 978-837-5000, Ext. 4205.

Revolving Museum, through April 2, LocalMotive: Gallery Exhibit, indoor gallery space will be transformed into an interactive exhibit celebrating the wonders of the natural world. Audiences will be taken on a journey through a variety of innovative artworks that explore issues like pollution control and spirituality through nature, artist-driven museum, dedicated to presenting public art, exhibitions, educational programs, gallery hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday noon-4 p.m., 22 Shattuck

St., Lowell: 978-937-2787.

J. David Broudo Gallery of Art, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Endicott College, 376 Hale St. (Route 127) Beverly: 978-232-2250.

Montserrat College of Art Gallery, Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.; Friday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, noon-4 p.m., 23 Essex St., Beverly: 978-921-4242.

Senior Center artists, talented artists participate in art classes and enjoy the "drop-in group" on Wednesday and Thursday mornings, art display of oils, watercolors, pencil, pen and ink, pastels and oriental brush art is in the Music Room; Andover Senior Center, Whittier Court: 978-623-8321.

Memorial Hall Library, Artist of the Month series features Joan Nyman, Before the Holocaust. Faces of a Lost People, Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Sunday, noon-5 p.m.; 978-623-8400, www.mhl.org

Flint Memorial Library, 147 Park St., North Reading: 978-664-4942, www.flintmemoriallibrary.org.

Churchill Gallery, Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Sunday, 12:30-5:30 p.m., 6 Inn St., Newburyport: 978-462-9891.

The State of the Art Gallery and Sculpture Garden, Rocky Neck Art Colony, Gloucester: 978-463-8883.

Cape Ann Historical Museum, Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., 27 Pleasant St., Gloucester: 978-283-0455.

The Saltbox Gallery, cooperative of 21 artists from the North Shore, Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; 49 Main St., Topsfield: 978-887-3844.

Laura Coombs Hills Gallery, Monday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday, noon-5 p.m., 60 Water St., Newburyport: 978-465-8769, www.newburyportart.org.

NECC Fringe Players to perform
Andover resident to direct Shakespeare-inspired comedy

The Fringe Players, a group of Northern Essex Community College theater alumni, will present their debut production, *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)*, at the Firehouse Center for the Arts in Newburyport.

Performances will run tonight, Thursday, Nov. 20 through Sunday, Nov. 30. All performances will begin at 7:30, except Sundays, when shows begin at 5 p.m.

This hilarious comedy is written by Adam Long, Daniel Singer, and Jess Winfield with additional material by Reed Martin, according to Jim Murphy, an adjunct professor at Northern Essex who is providing artistic and production direction for The Fringe Players. "A cast of three actors presents the seemingly impossible task of condensing all 37 of Shakespeare's plays into just 97 minutes."

The Opening Night performance is a benefit designed to raise funds for the Chester W. Hawrylcw Theater, which will be constructed in the Spurk Building on the college's Haverhill campus.



Taking part in "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)," are, from left: Matthew Carr of Salem, N.H., Paul Melendy of North Andover, and J. Mark Morrison of Haverhill.

Hawrylcw was associate dean of humanities, human services and social sciences at Northern Essex and a champion of the arts at the college. He died unexpectedly in August 2002. Tickets for this performance only will be \$20 and include a reception.

John Sefel, a Salem, N.H. native now living in Andover, is the director, and Cheri Reinasthunstrom of Andover is part of the stage crew and technical staff.

The cast is comprised of graduates of the college who are attending four-year colleges or working full-time in the community.

Tickets for all performances except the benefit are \$14 for adults, \$10 for students and seniors and can be purchased at the Firehouse Box Office, 978-462-7336; or check out the Web site: www.firehouse.org.

Author comes full circle

TOBIAS WOLFF

Continued from page 11

the writers of the day. Set in the 1960s, Wolff tried to bring the literary icons from the era into the story. He chose Robert Frost, Ayn Rand and Ernest Hemingway to enter his fictional setting.

He said Frost was one of the authors to visit his real school in his own youth, but it happens differently in his book.

"This was my chance to go back and not only listen to Frost, but have a conversation with him," said Wolff.

According to Wolff, it was not a place or events he was recreating, but the setting and atmosphere.

"It was a very literary place," he said.

He said there was enthusi-

asm over literary bigshots making appearances.

"It kind of filled the school with fevers, as if rock stars were coming," he said.

He said to some extent his latest work reflects the sullen tone of his memoirs, but said *Old School* is blended with humor.

"People tell me they consider it very funny, so I hope it has that detention, too," he said.

Wolff said he already has another novel in mind, and is working on a collection of short stories.

But the man who said he knew he wanted to be a writer, "pretty much from the time I was conscious about being anything," said he has no further plans for memoirs at this time.

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EVENTS CALENDAR

ONGOING

Continued from page 14

River Gallery, Thursday through Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., 4 Market St., Ipswich; 978-356-1559.

Robert Lehman Art Center at Brooks School, *Structures and Their Spaces*, Nov. 3- Dec. 17, gallery hours Tuesday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, 8:30 a.m.-noon, Sunday, 2:30-5 p.m., 1160 Great Pond Road, North Andover;

978-725-6232.

Another Atmosphere, 120 Pleasant St., Newburyport; 978-462-8029.

Ocmulgee Pottery & Fine Crafts, gallery hours Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 26 Market St., Ipswich; 978-356-1298.

Crescent Dragon Gallery, 59 Washington St., Haverhill; www.galleryoni.homestead.com/1.html.

Walsingham Gallery, gallery hours: Monday-Wednesday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Thursday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday, noon-5 p.m., 47 Merimac St., Newburyport; 978-499-4411 www.thewalsinghamgallery.com.

North Shore Arts Association of Gloucester, featuring sculptures, paintings, Pirate's Lane, Gloucester; 978-283-1857.

Erlich Gallery, gallery hours Tues-

day through Saturdays 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Sunday noon-5 p.m., 96 Washington St., Marblehead; 781-631-1202.

Museums and Historic Homes

Andover Historical Society, *Lucy's Acre: A Place in Time*, tour the Amos Blanchard House and Barn Museum for a glimpse into life in the early 19th century. Tuesday through Friday 1-4 p.m., \$5 admission, students \$3, 97 Main St.; 978-475-2236, www.andhist.org.

Museum of Printing, 800 Massachusetts Ave., North Andover, featuring antique printing equipment, \$5 admission, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday, 1-8 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday, 1-5 p.m.; 978-686-0450 or www.museumofprinting.org.

North Andover Historical Society, 153 Academy Road, North Andover, maintains two sites that feature museum galleries: 1789 Johnson Cottage, an artisan's home and workshop, and 1715 Parson Barnard House, depicting life from 1715-1830, 179 Osgood St. changing exhibits highlight local life from the 17th- to the 20th century, library and archive, \$3 adults, \$1 children, \$2 seniors, Johnson Cottage, tours Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m.-noon and 2-4 p.m., \$5 adults for a combined tour of both properties; 978-686-4035.

Boott Cotton Mills Museum, Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 400 Foot of John St., Lowell.

New England Quilt Museum, Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday, noon-4 p.m., 18 Shattuck St., Lowell; 978-452-4207.

FOR SENIORS

By Pat Becker

Andover Senior Center

Here are some of the activities coming up at the Andover Senior Center.

Choral Group: Our popular choral group, "The Sunrise Singers," under the direction of Linda Kirk, are in the process of producing their first musical CD. Well-known tunes and old favorites along with holiday music will be featured. The cost will be \$10; they should be available at the center at the beginning of December. Keep them in mind as you make up your shopping list.

Holiday Craft Sale: The senior center will sponsor a holiday craft, plant and bake sale on Friday, Dec. 12 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. All kinds of seasonal crafts, decorations and gift items will be featured along with poinsettias and a great selection of bakery items.

Massage Therapy: The senior center has the services of a licensed massage therapist onsite on Monday mornings. Seated upper-body chair massages are available at the reduced cost of \$12 for a 20-minute treatment. Call the center if you would like to make an appointment.

Taking Control of Alzheimer's Disease: Developed for early stage disease in people with memory disorders, this four-part series discusses ways in which symptoms can be managed. The sessions will combine education and support for affected early-stage persons and their care partners. Remain-

ing classes will be held at the Andover Senior Center on Tuesday, Nov. 25 and Tuesday, Dec. 9 and 16 from 2 to 4 p.m. under the direction of Debra Katt-Lloyd of the Alzheimer's Association. The course is free of charge, but pre-registration is required by calling Katt-Lloyd at 978-937-5576.

Flu Shots: The Andover Board of health will hold its make-up flu shot clinic at the Andover Senior Center on Monday, Nov. 24 at 1:30 p.m.

Men's Breakfast: All interested senior men are invited to join us tomorrow at 8:30 a.m. when we will offer a program by Bill Patton Jr. entitled, "Come Josephine," a show featuring old-time cars, trucks, planes and automobiles. Cost is \$3 and space may be reserved by calling the senior center.

Thanksgiving Dinner: The senior center will host its annual Thanksgiving dinner for Andover seniors on Sunday, Nov. 23 at noon. A traditional turkey dinner with all the trimmings will be served. Cost is \$6.50. Call the center to see about space availability.

Women's Luncheon/Lecture: "Reinventing Ourselves" will be the topic of the day next Monday, Nov. 24 when former NBC-TV anchorwoman Kelly Lange will be the guest speaker at our women's luncheon. The program will get underway at noon at Old Town Hall. Tickets are \$10 each and are available on an advance-purchase basis only. No tickets will be available at the door.

Singing in choir school

BOY SOPRANO

Continued from page 11

of homesickness. Robert Hoff was recovering from having a brain tumor removed when Connor headed back to New York for his fifth-grade year. Joanne Hoff said that, even though Connor's father was going to be all right, Connor found it difficult to be so far away and not be able to see firsthand how his father was doing.

"That was a particularly hard year. We had some times where we weren't sure if we were going to make it," she said. "He said, 'As hard as it is, I want to make it through to the end.'"

Opportunities

According to Joanne Hoff, the school offers children a wonderful opportunity to perform as professional vocalists at such a young age.

Connor and other boys only have a brief window during which they can sing professionally with their soprano voices. "The boy soprano voice is just a little moment in time," said Joanne Hoff. "The voice will change. It won't be the boy soprano voice."

Once the boys' voices start to change, they

stop singing and practicing with the choir. Connor's mom said the time of change is a time for the boys to rest their voices, but it does not mean they leave the school.

Connor said when his voice changes, he will have more time to do other things, and he has no intentions of leaving St. Thomas early.

"In the seventh grade, that's when you start to worry," he said, believing he has at least one more year with his current singing voice.

Connor plays sports, studies, gets good grades and makes it out to the movies on a regular basis. He said he does not believe the school's strong focus on singing limits him from enjoying any of his other interests.

As for the future, Connor said he is not sure if his plans will include music. He mentions he might like to become an astronaut, but he isn't thinking that far ahead yet. "I'm really not sure what I want to be," Connor said.

The 11-year-old will graduate from the St. Thomas Choir School in about two and a half years, and is setting his sights on attending Phillips Academy, back in Andover, for high school.



Connor Hoff

PHOTO BY TIM JEAN

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Townspeople

ON THE SCENE

First of three dancing dads with daughters parties steps off Bancroft School's auction also headlines last weekend's party scene

By Judy Wakefield

It's one of the hottest dance tickets in town even though half the crowd is used to dancing with the Teletubbies on their TVs.

It was the Department of Community Services father-daughter dance for little girls under the age of 5. Sold out weeks ago with 100 takers, the event offers little girls from Andover a chance to dress to the nines and hit the dance floor with dad. The dance was held for two hours last Friday night at the Town House on Main Street.

Vern Loschi of DCS said the girls "looked adorable" as they dressed in their holiday best. There was lots of red and black velvet dresses, patent leather shoes and pretty bows, Loschi said.

This was the first of three father-daughter dances being sponsored by DCS. It's a dance theme that has exploded over the past two years, as Andover families really like these dances. All three sold out weeks ago.

"It gives dads and daughters some special time together and the girls love to wear their fancy holiday dresses," Loschi said of the event's appeal. "We could probably do another one (father-daughter) dance, but we've decided three is enough."

Even though tonight, Thursday, Nov. 20, is a school night, the father-daughter dance for all ages is sold out with yet another 100 takers. Dancing will be held from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Town House.

And, the final dance is tomorrow, Friday, Nov. 21, starting at 6:30 p.m., also at the Town House.

How much would you be willing to pay to have your child hang around with the school principal for a day? How does \$625 sound? That's what three parents each paid at last Friday night's auction at Andover Country Club to benefit Bancroft School.



Bancroft School Principal Scott Morrison and wife Julie at last Friday's benefit auction for the school.

Organizer Robin Buhner said about 245 people attended and more than \$30,000 was raised from live and silent auctions, and the principal-for-a-day item was the "most spirited" item as the bidding went higher and higher. Principal Scott Morrison, who attended with his wife, Julie Morrison, was happy to play



Dance-going dad Dan Roche of Andover enjoys time with his daughter, Victoria.

such a big-money role at the party, as proceeds will go toward granting the wish lists of teachers at his school.

Rounding up the geese

Meet the newest staff member at West Parish Garden Cemetery

By Andrea Gregory

WHEN MARK ATWOOD, superintendent of the West Parish Garden Cemetery, goes to work, he gets a little help from Roxxy, a four-legged friend.

Roxxy joined the staff of the West Parish Cemetery about six months ago. The 8-month-old border collie has one job — to keep out the geese. According to her human co-workers, she is doing quite well.

Atwood brought Roxxy to the cemetery because geese were making a mess of the grounds with their droppings. Because the cemetery's lawn provided food and its two ponds provided safety from some attackers, a growing number of geese saw West Parish Cemetery an ideal spot to live.

"These geese, they're harmless more or less, but they just make such a mess," said Atwood.

Something needed to be done. Atwood attended a "Geese Peace" seminar that offers those plagued by geese humane ways to get rid of the birds. First the cemetery planted trees at the water's edge to block the geese. It didn't work. Then a fence was tried.

"They jumped right over it," Atwood said. "After I paid attention to them, they were a lot more intelligent than I gave them credit for."

Finally, it was time to bring in the big guns — or big dogs anyway. But not just any dog would do the trick. Atwood and Gwen Hedrick, president of the board of directors, explain that, unlike some other dogs, border collies don't hurt the geese. In fact, they don't even try to catch them. It is in their nature to herd.

"It's unique to her breed. It's an inborn trait I guess," said Hedrick.

"Labradors will catch and kill them," said Atwood.

The good thing for the cemetery is the geese have no idea they are being chased by harmless dogs.

Border collies will crouch down low, ears up, and to the geese they resemble wolves — one of their natural predators, said Atwood. Or the dogs will move like foxes, sending the feathery flock fleeing for the safety of water. Atwood said the geese know the fox will give up if the birds make it to water. Dogs won't, which forces the birds to keep moving.

"Until we got the dog, nothing worked," he said. "That was your best solution, but they have to be onsite."

Geese descend on the property from early May through August. West Parish Cemetery first tried the border collie



No peace for the geese - Roxxy, an 8-month-old border collie, has only one job - to keep the geese from becoming a nuisance at West Parish Garden Cemetery. Here she takes a breather with her "boss," Mark Atwood, superintendent of the cemetery.

approach in the summer of 2001. Hedrick said the cemetery used an outside company that brings in dogs for a week, ridding the land of geese. Two or three border collies successfully chased the birds that week. However, the effects were only temporary, and the birds quickly returned once the coast was clear of canines.

"It's like they have a lookout. They know when the coast is clear. It has to be constant harassment of the geese or they'll come back," said Atwood.

So, after two years of failed attempts, West Parish Cemetery turned to Roxxy.

When she was 2 months old, Roxxy said farewell to a farm in Georgetown where she and her border collie brother and sisters were bred, and came to help the cemetery take care of the growing problem with geese.

"It's the only way to get rid of the geese," Hedrick said.

Roxxy was a \$700 investment that has proven to be worth it to the cemetery. Since she came untrained, she was much cheaper than the going rate for her breed, which is in the thousands.

Roxxy has quickly learned she has a job to do, even though it looks like it is all fun and games to her.

"We come in about 7 or so. She checks

up on the hill," Atwood said. "It's pretty much just roaming around. When she was a puppy, she was a little hesitant of them (the geese)." Atwood said Roxxy would chase the geese to the water's edge, but was not sure about getting her feet wet.

However, by the time Roxxy turned 6 months old, she was diving into her work — and into the water, chasing dozens of pesky geese off the grounds.

"Now she goes right in the pond," he said. "She was 2 months when she started so this is kind of her house and her lawn."

It's 27 acres of dog heaven, with two ponds serving as her swimming pools.

"It's much cleaner," Hedrick said.

Atwood said the grounds may be cleaner, but Roxxy "does trash the house." At the end of every shift, Roxxy goes to Atwood's New Hampshire home. Because Roxxy is still a puppy, Atwood said sometimes he has to say her name more than once to get her to come, and she likes to jump on people when she gets excited. But he is confident, this is just a stage. He said Roxxy is fascinated by newcomers, loves kids and has learned quickly.

"Pretty much wherever we're working she wants to stay, so she can see us. She really doesn't like to go too far," said Atwood. "She's part of our family now."

TOWN TALK

Coupon-clipping helps clubs...

With the too-many study halls debate raging at Andover High (see story, page 1), what are students yakking about during all their free time? Well, at least 40 of them are talking about restoring after-school clubs. Axed this school year due to budget cuts, the clubs are sorely missed by many kids. So, they are putting the final touches on a casino night fundraiser that organizers hope will raise at least \$10,000 for club restoration. Their most original auction idea is a coupon book that offers several names of potential teen babysitters. Kids are also offering tutoring services, and plan to offer instrument lessons to younger kids.

"These kids are coming up with some great original ideas," said parent organizer Lisa McDonald of Durham Drive.

The auction takes place Friday, Dec. 5 starting at 7 p.m. at Indian

Ridge Country Club. Tickets are \$50 and available by calling McDonald at 978-475-9397.

— Judy Wakefield

...Or, shop to raise money!

This Sunday, Nov. 23, from 6 to 9:30 p.m., Andover High School students and other community members will be shopping at the Rockingham Mall to raise money for clubs at AHS. Shopping and raising money are rarely connected; however, this very combination could make the night a success.

Simon Malls holds an annual charity shopping event to benefit a variety of local charities and their own youth foundation, which aids underprivileged youth. On Sunday, the mall will be open past its regular business hours to shoppers who purchase an \$8 ticket. Simon Malls

Charity Foundation holds a total of 10,000 tickets for the night and Andover High School has purchased 250 tickets. For every ticket sold at Andover High, \$6 will go directly to benefiting clubs and \$2 will aid the Simon Malls Charity Foundation. Retailers will hold special discounts that will only be available for the charity event, entertainment will be provided and ticket holders will have the opportunity to win prizes including a week in Rome, a \$500 dollar shopping spree at Simon Malls and more.

The event organizers, parents Diane Castagliola and Ellen Travers, and sophomores Jocelyn Nagy and Laura Manfredi, have been planning this event for the past month. Tickets (expected to sell out) are on sale at the kiosk in the High School cafeteria and are available to students and community members. Need a good excuse to treat yourself at the mall? Just say, "But Mom, it's for school!"

— Jaclyn Todisco

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— Luz Rivera, Lowell resident

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RELIGION NEWS

The St. Augustine Parish annual Christmas Treasures Fair will be held Saturday, Dec. 6 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the school. Many fun activities are planned: Santa's Workshop and Gift Room, bake and candy tables, silent auction items and gift baskets, pictures with Santa and many professional crafters from throughout the Merrimack Valley will be onsite, selling handmade items. Lunch will also be served, so plan to spend the day, organizers said.



ILLUSTRATION BY ED PARKER

Temple Emanuel of Andover, 7 Haggetts Pond Road, will hold a special abbreviated Sabbath service for toddlers, preschool, and young school aged children Friday evening, Dec. 5 at 5:45.

Rabbi Robert Goldstein will lead the child-centered liturgy and tell a story. Cantor Donn Rosensweig will lead the singing.

Parents and children are invited to attend a Family Shabbat Dinner immediately following the service. For more information, call the Temple office at 978-470-1356 by Nov. 25. No reservation is needed for the Tot Shabbat service.



Pictured from left holding a sign advertising the St. A's cash raffle with a grand prize of \$10,000 are students McKenzie and Addison Kennedy and Katie Tyler. Six cash prizes will be awarded, ticket price \$100. Only 400 tickets will be sold. For more information about purchasing cash raffle tickets, contact the school at 978-475-2414.

SouthWinds and Phillips Academy are offering a opportunity for the greater Andover community to come together for a Thanksgiving worship service at Cochran Chapel, Saturday evening, Nov. 22 at 5 p.m.

The service will be led by the Rev. Mike Ebner, Phillips Academy Protestant chaplain, and the SouthWinds group of South Church. Music for the service will be provided by The Boston Community Choir, a diverse group of singers from the Boston area dedicated to excellence in the gospel music.

□□□

There will be a Thanksgiving service next Thursday, Nov. 27, at 10:30 a.m. at the First Church of Christ, Scientist, 278 North Main St.

The service includes reading for the occasion, and an opportunity for those attending to express their thoughts and gratitude. All are welcome. Call 978-475-3213 for more information.

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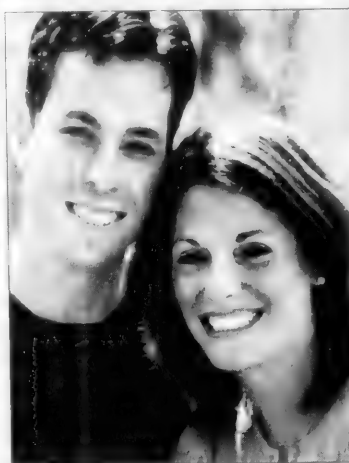
Paula and Richard Getnick of Middlebury, Conn. announce the engagement of their daughter, Emily Lynn Getnick of Boston, to

Aaron Michael Cooper, son of Rebecca and Ronald Cooper of Boston, formerly of Andover.

Ms. Getnick is a graduate of Taft School, Connecticut College, and is a graduate student in history at the University of Massachusetts Boston.

Her fiancé is a graduate of Phillips Academy and Harvard College. He is an equity analyst for Fidelity Investments.

The couple plan a May wedding.



Aaron Cooper and Emily Getnick

Messina-Keller

Cathyann and William Fulton of Orlando, Fla. and Alexander Messina of Lawrence announce the engagement of their daughter, Carrie A. Messina, to Michael Keller, son of Richard and Maureen Keller of Andover.

Ms. Messina, a graduate of Andover High School, received a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and is currently pursuing a master's degree in criminal justice at the University of Massachusetts Lowell.

Mr. Keller is a graduate of Austin Prep High School and is co-owner of Advanced Plumbing and Heating in North Andover.

The couple plan a May wedding.



Carrie Messina and Michael Keller

McKay-Smith

David and Carol McKay of Boardman, Ohio, announce the engagement of their daughter, Kimberly Ann, to Gregory Scott Smith, son of Pamela and William F. Smith of Andover, formerly of Reading.

Ms. McKay graduated cum laude from the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Ind., with a bachelor of business administration degree in marketing and international business.

Mr. Smith graduated from the University of Arizona, Tucson, with a bachelor of science degree in finance.

The wedding will take place at St. Alphonsus Church in Chicago, Ill. in March, with a reception following in the ballroom of the Art Institute of Chicago.



Kimberly McKay and Gregory Smith

Ciaccia-Connell

Peter and Linda Ciaccia of Andover announce the engagement of their daughter, Melissa, to Patrick Connell, the son of Ellen and Frank Connell of Narbeth, Pa.

Ms. Ciaccia graduated from Phillips Academy and the College of the Holy Cross. She is pursuing a master's degree in Spanish at Middlebury College. She is a Spanish teacher at St. Mary's Academy in Portland, Ore.

Her fiancé graduated from Saint Joseph's Preparatory in Philadelphia, University of Vermont, and is pursuing a master's degree in educational technology at George Washington University. He is a multimedia specialist working for Portland Community College in Portland, Ore.

The couple plan an August wedding.



Patrick Connell and Melissa Ciaccia

Perennial question: To tip or not to tip

■ OPINIONS MIXED

Continued from page 1

guys or bar staff were always giving them drinks," he said.

On a busy night at a restaurant, Spiro will put money down on the table when he sits down. *Tips* (an acronym) originally meant "To Insure Prompt Service," he said.

Andover waitresses say they generally do well in tips. Glory manager Eileen Eagen has worked her way up from hostess and served in every job at Glory. She said Glory has a regular clientele and tipping is uniformly good. "I don't think tipping has ever been an issue," she said.

Palmer's waitress Lindsey Strube said 20 percent is generally the standard and when she's been stiffed, it is usually someone from another country with different rules for tipping.

Glory waitress Sue Hutchison has waited tables for 20 years all over the country. In her experience, she said, older patrons tip less than 20 percent because 15 percent is an older standard. But she said older patrons are usually delightful customers, so she doesn't mind. Hutchison said a demanding customer who doesn't tip well is a reason to be upset.

Tipping the owner

Linane said he tips everyone. But then Spiro brought up the older rule that people aren't supposed to tip the owner. Linane looked uncertain and said he would have to ask his mother, who is his authority on tipping. "You grow up with it — the apple doesn't fall far from the tree," he said.

Robin Calderwood, owner of the Andover Barber Shop on Main Street, said the not-tip-

ping-the-owner rule is something that stumps her. She said when her father, John Freitas, ran the shop and a patron asked if it would insult him if he offered him a tip, Freitas' response was, "Go on, insult me," said Calderwood.

Full Serve Gas

Andover resident Brenda Boyce of 301 Salem St. tips wait staff, car service drivers, her hairdresser, the paper boy — she even puts her change in the tip jar at Dunkin' Donuts.

She hadn't heard of tipping the gas station attendant, but some people do. "I never even think of tipping at gas stations," said Boyce.

Edwin Baez is an attendant at the Gulf Station on Main Street. At the full-service station, Baez estimated he gets about \$20 a day in tips. Manager Randy Guilmette said past workers have made more. Guilmette said he believes Baez makes less because of his ethnicity.

The Mobil station on North Main Street reported differences. That station has self-serve and full service pumps.

An attendant who did not want to be named said he made a couple of dollars a week.

The Rules

People who talk about tipping eventually start referring to "the rules."

"Sometimes I don't know what I should tip — I don't know the rules," said Brenda Boyce.

"There are no rules," said her husband Barry.

"Tipping is kind of arbitrary," said Brenda.

Sandra Ciolfi, of 35 Pine St., said it would be easier if gratuities were added onto bills. On a recent trip across country, she was faced with many situations where tipping might be appropriate. Baggage handlers, hotel staff, cab drivers — each service seemingly required a tip of some amount.

"I would rather have a service charge," she said.

For many, the question of whether a tip is appropriate depends on how the patron perceives the person giving the service. Esthetician Kristen Francis, of Elizabeth Grady Face First, thinks people sometimes hesitate to tip her because her white coat is suggestive of the medical profession and people don't tip doctors or nurses.

When waxing, doing facials or applying make-up, Francis said she does get a 15 to 20 percent tip. She said a \$10 tip on a \$60 bill was not uncommon.

The Guilt Trip

Most people said there are situations where they tip for a service they didn't believe deserved a tip. Considering the high cost some services already charge was one reason. "Why am I tipping for taxis," asked Ciolfi. Lousy service was another. "I tip in resentment," Linane said of tipping waitresses who gave bad service.

The tip cup that some coffee shops in town leave by the cash register came up regularly in conversations about tipping.

Boyce puts whatever change she gets back into the tip jar. "It could be small or 95 cents," she said. Boyce has no rule about the amount. "It's not really conscious — it's guilty," she said.

Glory waitress Hutchison said she objects to tipping at Starbucks or Dunkin' Donuts because the employees at those places make a regular wage, while she makes less than \$3 an hour before tips. "You feel like the biggest cheapskate, but I don't want to, on principle," she said.

Alison Atwood of 21 Chestnut Court said she enjoys tipping at coffee shops and even at certain food court restaurants at malls. "It's a good way to empty the change out of your pocket," she said.

Toni Hadad, co-owner of Ultimate Perk on Main Street, said the tip jar at Ultimate Perk gets split between the girls working on that shift.

She said that people do drop change in the jar, but contractors — who she said are identifiable by their work clothes — usually leave the most.

Hadad got a \$3 tip last week. She said she put it in the jar for the girls.

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VIEWED TO BE THE BEST



Patrons Dennis Linane (left) and Mike Spiro share their opinions about tipping — and their money — on a recent evening at Palmer's Restaurant on Elm Street.

Business

Lunchtime lyrics

At Raspberries, there is such a thing as a free lunch – if you're daring

By Amanda Farnola
What's Up intern

Residents shouldn't be surprised if they open the doors of The Andover Spa one afternoon and hear someone belting out a verse of *Honky-Tonk Woman*.

At the back of the store, behind the aisles of soda, snacks and newspapers sits Raspberries, a small lunch shop which sells mainly subs, soups and their own specialty meals. Some days, by singing just one verse of songs such as *Satisfaction*, *Sympathy for the Devil* or *Honky-Tonk Woman*, people win free lunches such as the Razzma-tazz sandwiches or Mulligatawny soup.

"You'd be surprised what people will do for free lunches. They abandon their inhibitions," claims Dana Wilson, the owner and chef at Raspberries, who is obviously also a Rolling Stones fan.

Sharon Rogers, who works next store at the Indra Salon, cast her reticence aside recently when she walked into Raspberries, and sang a verse of the song *Satisfaction*. On the bottom of the daily menus Raspberries faxes to downtown busi-



At Raspberries in the back of the Andover Spa, residents can sometimes sing for a free lunch. Posing for a photo are (sitting, from left) Michael Feinman and Michael Contos; and (standing, from left) Steve Shannon, waitstaff member Amy Ring, owner Dana Wilson and Mark Dubinsky.

nesses each day, Wilson had included a challenge to people to come sing for their lunch. Rogers was one of five winners who threw caution to the wind and was rewarded with the meal of her choice. "I wasn't expect-

ing it, but Dana refused to let me pay," she said.

The reason for doing this is "purely fun, people sing in front of whole crowds," said Wilson.

With a smile on his face, Wilson seemed glad to be giving

away free lunches, for those who dare to expose their vocal talents. On occasion, Wilson also has trivia contests, according to Raspberries employees.

Amanda Farnola is a student at Andover High School.

Colyer tops NE planning group

Sees benefits to having second commuter rail line in Andover

By Andrea Gregory

Andover Planning Director Steve Colyer was recently elected president of the New England Association of Regional Councils.

The association represents more than 50 regional councils and planning agencies throughout New England, "almost like a single voice on a national level," said Colyer. As president, he plans on working as a strong advocate for Merrimack Valley and New England transportation issues, he said. "A lot of time we don't get the strongest voice as far as making our needs known in Washington," said Colyer.

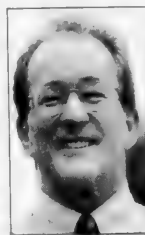
He said he also will be working on ways to "take New England into the future." He believes he can do this by keeping New England's transportation issues on the radar of government officials who decide where and when to spend taxpayers' money on projects. As far as what could be in

Andover's future, Colyer notes that Andover only has one set of railroad tracks in operation. As a result, commuter trains come to Andover less frequently than they do to towns such as Reading, and they are less convenient for commuters. He said about twice as many trips are scheduled for the train line that goes from Boston to Lowell, a community adjacent to Andover.

Although there is not a plan in Andover's immediate future, reinstating the second rail would benefit the town, said Colyer.

"The interest never went away," he said, acknowledging talks have occurred in the past about bringing back a second rail. "There are people who drive to Reading to commute to Boston."

Any plan to extend a second rail through Andover would need to involve tackling other issues such as providing more parking for commuters, Colyer said.



Steve Colyer, town planning director

BRIEFS

Top producers

Prudential Howe & Doherty Realtors recently announced its top-producing agents for the last quarter – Amy Sebell, Sheryl Doherty and Peggy Patenaude. This recognition acknowledges residential sales professionals whose gross commission income ranked highest among Prudential Howe & Doherty's 65 sales associates. The Prudential Real Estate Affiliates Inc. is a company of Prudential Financial.

"Amy, Sheryl and Peggy have done a tremendous job of providing superior customer service and timely real estate advice to their clients," said Doug Howe, broker/owner of Prudential Howe & Doherty. "We are extremely proud of their ability to provide the most efficient home buying and selling experience possible."

Amy Sebell has more than 15 years of experience in the real estate field, and joined Prudential Howe & Doherty in December 2000. She has also been honored as a member of the Hall of Fame, the Chairman's Circle, and is an alumna of the Graduate Realtors Institute.



Andover Post Office earned recognition for superior performance in minimizing sick leave when eastern area postmasters of the Massachusetts Postal District met during November at the district office in North Reading. Greg French, left, and former Andover Postmaster Barry P. Begley, right, Post Office operations managers, presented Robert Kerrigan, officer-in-charge of the Andover Post Office, with a plaque in recognition of his facility exceeding the goal regarding sick leave during Fiscal Year 2003.

Sheryl Doherty has been in real estate since the 1980s, also has been a recipient of the Chairman's Circle Award and is a member of the Leading Edge Society.

Peggy Patenaude entered the real estate field in 1982 and has previously won the Chairman's Circle Gold Award, which recognizes the top 4 percent of agents nationally.

Deshpande distinguished speaker

Gururaj "Desh" Deshpande, founder and chairman of Sycamore Networks Inc., recently spoke at Boston University. Deshpande shared his views as a student, researcher, professor, engineer and entrepreneur about the role of networking and emerging networking technologies in the global economy.

The free speech was part of a series developed to commemorate the 25 years Boston University's Department of Computer Science has provided computer science education for information technology professionals.

A release stated, "Dr. Deshpande is an influential technology entrepreneur and visionary whose companies and ideas often reshape entire industries."

Deshpande serves as a member of the MIT Corp. His donations have made possible MIT's Deshpande Center for Technological Innovation, created to serve as a catalyst for innovation and entrepreneurship by supporting research and collaboration among entrepreneurs, young companies, and MIT students, alumni and faculty.

Prior to co-founding

Sycamore Networks, Deshpande was founder and chairman of Cascade Communications Corp., and co-founder of Coral Network Corp.

Deshpande holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, a master's in electrical engineering from the University of New Brunswick in Canada, and a doctorate in data communications from Queens University in Canada.

HR association

The Human Resource Association of the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce will present "Erisa Fiduciary Duty, The Basics and (Just) Beyond" today, Thursday, Nov. 20 from 11:45 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Joe Fish, 1120 Osgood St., Route 125, North Andover. The cost is \$20 for HR association members, \$25 for Merrimack Valley Chamber members and \$35 for non-members. Invited guest speaker will be Marc Cahn, an attorney with Diversified Investment Advisors. Call 978-686-0900, or visit www.merrimackvalleychamber.com.

Edward Jones representative's grand opening

Andover resident Barbara Bergman Guarnaccia of the financial-services firm Edward Jones invites the public to join her at a grand opening celebration out of town.

The event will be from 4 to 8 p.m. today, Thursday, Nov. 20 at her office at 4 Lowell Road in North Reading.

Activities will include cake-cutting and a drawing. Bergman said she will be on hand to greet visitors and discuss trends in today's securities industry.

Bergman graduated from Case Western Reserve University with an MBA in finance and marketing.

She and her husband, Michael, have three children.

"I am excited to be opening an Edward Jones office in North Reading," Bergman said. "This firm concerns itself exclusively with the needs of individual investors and small business owners, and I'm happy to be bringing that kind of personalized service to this community."

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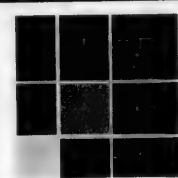
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Sports

AHS FOOTBALL

Host Billerica blasts Warriors, 21-7

Instead of playing the spoiler role, AHS subjected to deep freeze by Indians; slip to 5-5

By Rick Harrison

The somewhat battered and bruised Andover High football team played its heart out before succumbing to host Billerica, 21-7, in a Merrimack Valley Conference game contested in freezing temperatures and whipping winds at the Marshall Middle School field.

The Golden Warriors, hoping to spoil Billerica's chance for an Eastern Mass. Division 2 playoff berth and a share of the 2003 MVC title, were locked in a 7-7 tie before the Indians escaped with a pair of fourth-quarter touchdowns.

The loss was the third in a row for coach Ken Maglio's competitive crew, which fell to 5-5 overall and 4-3 in conference play.

Billerica, after starting the season 0-4, has won six straight and stands at 6-4 overall and 6-1 in the league.

Andover hopes to salvage a winning season when it

faces Central Catholic Thanksgiving morning at Veterans Memorial Stadium in Lawrence. Kickoff is at 10 a.m. for next Thursday's finale.

AHS will not have an easy task Turkey Day, with Central riding a three-game win streak and standing 8-2 overall and 5-2 in conference play.

The Raiders, even without top running back Joe Fendone (48 points, 744 yards rushing), ran roughshod over Dracut 31-14 last week.

CCHS is separated from an undefeated season by a 14-0 loss to Chelmsford and 14-7 setback to Lowell.

Other top scorers for balanced Central are wide receiver Jeff Cargill with 32 points, QB Jeff St. Onge 30, Dan Rokas 28, placekicker Scott Landers 27, Anthony Giuffrida 14, Mike O'Donnell 12 and Matt O'Connell 12.

St. Onge has pitched six TD passes with Cargill grabbing four and O'Donnell two.

Central rolled to a 42-7 win last year and Andover prevailed 24-12 in 2001. The Raiders have beaten AHS five of the last six years, 10 of the past 12 and hold a commanding 17-5 series edge since 1980 (the 1985 game was cancelled by a snowstorm).

□□□

Andover gave Billerica all it could handle thanks to some tough-when-it-had-to-be defense, and strong running by versatile sophomore Buddy Farnham.

Farnham, inserted in the backfield for the injured Shaheen Ghandchi, picked up 106 yards rushing on 12 carries.

Junior quarterback Geoff Stevens, who had to battle the gusting winds, still completed 8-of-11 passes for 50 yards.

Stevens also scored the lone Andover touchdown, his seventh of the season, on a one yard sneak with 46 seconds left in the opening half.

Joel Keefe booted his 23rd PAT to tie the score, 7-7, and that's how it stayed until Billerica broke it open in the final minutes.

Dan Pope scored all three TDs for the Indians on runs of 17, three and five yards.

Pope, who ground out 153 yards on 27 workhorse carries, lifted his season totals to 90 points and 1,096 yards rushing. Pope has scored 12 touchdowns in the last four games.

With the score tied 7-7 in the fourth quarter, a hard hit by the Indians' Jimmy Galvin forced a fumble which the winners recovered at the AHS 20.

Pope ripped off a 17 yard run and then scored the winning touchdown on the following play. Sean Souza's PAT kick made it 14-7 with nine minutes left.

The insurance TD came with 3:44 left as Pope keyed a six-play, 50-yard drive with his running.

Pope's first score came on a 17 yard sweep of left end with two minutes remaining in the opening quarter.

Matt Hennessy contributed 52 yards rushing although he was also hurting, and Ben Newman caught four passes totaling 32 yards.

Defensive standouts for the Golden Warriors included junior linebacker Mike Muccio (eight tackles), senior end Jason Shoemaker (eight tackles), junior cornerback John Fox (seven tackles), senior end Matt Wolfman (seven tackles), senior lineman Phil Perkins (five tackles), junior linebacker Nathan Wiech (five tackles) and senior end Brett Herlihy (five tackles).

Billerica did not commit a turnover.

□□□

Andover has been held to four touchdowns (26 points overall) in the last three games, while Billerica has allowed only 34 points during its impressive six-game win streak (5.7 ave. per game).

Andover defeated Billerica 19-14 last fall to break a three-game losing streak against the Indians, but BMHS has now beaten the Golden Warriors nine of the last 11 games.

□□□

Billerica will be out to complete an impressive run to the playoffs when it battles first-place Chelmsford on Thanksgiving.

The Lions, who beat non-league St. John's Prep 21-12 last weekend at UMass Lowell Cushing Field, are 7-0 in the MVC and 9-1 overall.

If Billerica wins the pair will share the title and the Indians will

qualify for the playoffs by virtue of beating Chelmsford head-to-head.

If Chelmsford, which has already clinched at least a tie for its fourth straight championship, wins it will sweep all the honors outright.

□□□

Andover's balanced scoring is led by sophomore

Buddy Farnham and junior quarterback Geoff Stevens with 42 points each.

Hennessy and Ghandchi have 30 points apiece.

Keefe 23 and Newman 18. Dennis Collins, Ryan Don-

ahue, Mike Muccio and Vining have six points each.

MVC FOOTBALL STANDINGS

	W	L	OVL	PF	PA
c-Chelmsford	7	0	9-1	280	96
Billerica	6	1	6-4	191	117
Central Catholic	5	2	8-2	216	105
Lowell	5	2	7-2	179	89
ANDOVER	4	3	5-5	209	156
Haverhill	2	5	3-6	108	203
Tewksbury	2	5	2-6	97	178
Methuen	0	6	2-6	102	199
Dracut	0	7	3-7	166	211

c = clinched title tie

Results Last Weekend

Billerica 21, ANDOVER 7
Central Catholic 31, Dracut 14
Haverhill 27, Methuen 12
Lowell 14, Tewksbury 7
Chelmsford 21, St. John's Prep 12 (non-league)

Game Today, 5 p.m.

Tewksbury at Methuen (Nicholson Stadium)

Games Thanksgiving, 10 a.m.

ANDOVER at Central Catholic (Veterans Memorial Stadium)
Chelmsford at Billerica (Marshall Middle School)
Methuen at Dracut (Beaudry Field)
Lowell at Haverhill (Haverhill Stadium)
Wilmington at Tewksbury, non-league (Doucette Stadium)

GAME SUMMARY

BILLERICA 21, ANDOVER 7 at Marshall Middle School, Billerica					
Andover	0	7	0	0	7
Billerica	7	0	0	14	21
First Quarter					
B: Dan Pope 17 run (Sean Souza kick)					
Second Quarter					
A: Geoff Stevens 1 run (Joel Keefe kick)					
Third Quarter					
No scoring					
Fourth Quarter					
B: Pope 3 run (Souza kick)					
B: Pope 5 run (Souza kick)					
Team Statistics					
First Downs: Andover 8; Billerica 11					
Rushes/Yards: Andover 31-154; Billerica 44-198					
Passing: Andover 8-12-0 50 yards; Billerica 2-3-0 18 yards					
Total Yards: Andover 204; Billerica 216					
Fumbles/Lost: Andover 1-1; Billerica 0-0					
Punts/Ave: Andover 5-22					
Penalties/Yards: Andover 8-55; Billerica 1-15					
Scrimmage Plays: Andover 47; Billerica 52					
Records: Andover 5-5; Billerica 6-4					
Individual Statistics					
Rushing: A. Buddy Farnham 12-106; Matt Hennessy 12-52; Mike Muccio 1-2; Geoff Stevens 6-46; TD. B. Dan Pope 27-153, 3 TDs, Robert Walsh 12-39					
Passing: A. Geoff Stevens 8-12-0, 50 yards; Tom White 0-1-0; B. Dan McWilliams 2-3-0, 18 yards					
Receiving: A. Ben Newman 4-32; Buddy Farnham 2-9; Dennis Collins 1-8; Chris Vining 1-1; B. James McCuskey 1-12; Robert Walsh 1-6					
Interceptions: A. None					
Fumble Recoveries: A. None					
Tackles: A. Jason Shoemaker 8; Mike Muccio 8; John Fox 7; Matt Wolfman 7; Phil Perkins 5; Brett Herlihy 5; Nathan Wiech 5; Brent Hyde 4; Larry Masse 3; Tom White 3; Buddy Farnham 3; Matt Hennessy 1; Kyle MacKenzie 1					

STATE CHAMPIONS

LADY WARRIORS

Continued from page 1

It was the fifth consecutive time Andover has won the state title in the pool, although the 2000 championship was recently taken away from the locals in the courts when it was deemed by the MIAA that a Lady Warriors swimmer who competed that season was ineligible.

That decision, however, is still being contested and could eventually be overturned.

"I hope I never get tired of the thrill of winning this (state title) and what it means," said a physically-exhausted but emotionally-energetic head coach Marilyn Fitzgerald after the meet. "I especially get excited for the kids. I'm proud of each and every one of them — again!"

"It never ceases to amaze me the support we get from the town," continued Fitzgerald. "The cruisers were waiting for us with lights flashing as soon as we left the highway."

"It's great to see the reaction of the freshmen — who are going through this for the first time."

"When we got to the high school all the parents — even the ones who didn't have kids competing — were waiting for us. It was a nice homecoming celebration."

From there it was on to the Pallottas (Liz is a captain) for a pizza party and team sleepover.

"I have to be back (at the Pallottas) at 6 o'clock (Monday morning) to make sure all the kids are up and ready to go to school," said Fitzgerald. "The only way we were allowed to let the girls spend the night, talking and enjoying being state champs, was if we made sure they were all in school the next day."

"Hopefully we can switch the meet back to Saturday so it isn't a school night and it won't matter (when they get up)."

Domination

In addition to the four wins by Mancuso and Doherty, the champs added two more victories in the 200 medley and 200 free relays.

Sophomore Candice Peak contributed an individual second and third, while junior Diana Har-

low had a fourth and fifth. Others who scored in two individual events each were senior Amy Caron and the freshman duo of Jen Geary and

Tiffany Petzold.

The top 12 placers in each event get points, with the first six also receiving medals and seven through 12 awarded ribbons.

"The mantra is always 'get the hardware,' because that means you finished top six and took home a medal," noted Fitzgerald.

The 118-point victory margin was easily explained by the veteran head coach, who registered her milestone 100th career dual-meet victory earlier this fall.

"Everything was so spread out this year," said Fitzgerald. "We were the only team to place two swimmers top 12 in several events and to score in 11 races."

"Teams like Milford, Belmont and Appononquet had girls win events or place high, which took a lot of points away from Acton-Boxboro."

"I also think they (A-B) had some of their kids peak too soon, at the Sec-

tionals, because their times were not as fast today as they were the previous week."

Mancuso focused

Liz Mancuso, who has been surrounded by controversy not of her own making, remained impressively focused and undefeated in all races this season when she swept the 50 and 100 free sprints.

She won the 50 in a swift 24.52-second clocking and the 100 in a personal best (by almost two seconds) 52.72.

Mancuso, a top student whose college choices include Dartmouth and Williams, also anchored both winning relays.

Caitlin Doherty earned her second and third state titles in two years.

The No. 1 seed repeated as the 100 fly champion with a personal-best 57.39 clocking, and the super soph also swam a high school personal-best 5:05.91 to win the 500 free by almost five full seconds. Runner-up Sarah Keams of Milford touched in 5:10.83.

"Just a terrific swim (in the 500)," said Fitzgerald. "Caitlin led the race from the time she hit the water. There were 30 girls in the event (several heats), and to win by so much time

Continued on page 21

SWIMMING RESULTS

2003 MIAA ALL-STATE GIRLS SWIM & DIVE CHAMPIONSHIP MEET

at Blodgett Pool, Harvard University

TOP TEAM SCORES

1. ANDOVER 245 pts; 2. Acton-Boxboro 127; 3. Notre Dame Academy-Hingham 125.5; 4. Seekonk 107; 5. Belmont 106; 6. Chelmsford 94. Note: 41 teams completed and 33 scored points

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS (Winners & Andover Placers)

Top 12 Score

200 MEDLEY RELAY: 1. Andover (Diana Harlow, Amy Caron, Caitlin Doherty & Liz Mancuso), 1:50.33.

200 FREE: 1. Lindsay Woodward (Appononquet) 1:56.66; 8. Tiffany Petzold (And) 2:00.56; 9. Jenny Geary (And) 2:00.75

200 IM: 1. Jen Vogel (NDA-Hingham) 2:09.08; 5. Diana Harlow (And) 2:12.83; 7. Amy Caron (And) 2:15.40; 17. Carolyn Cody (And) 2:22.17

50 FREE: 1. Liz Mancuso (And) 24.52.

1-METER DIVING: 1. Juliette DeFrancisco (Newton North) 444.85 pts; 13. Casey Frost (And) 241.95 pts. Note: Libby Forner & Anne Marie Cashman also competed for Andover

100 BUTTERFLY: 1. Caitlin Doherty (And) 57.39; 14. Carolyn Cody (And) 1:03.49

100 FREE: 1. Liz Mancuso (And) 52.72; 3. Candice Peak (And) 54.39; 11. Tiffany Petzold (And) 56.32

500 FREE: 1. Caitlin Doherty (And) 5:05.91; 2. Sarah Keams (Milford) 5:10.83; 7. Jenny Geary (And) 5:18.99; 23. Jamie Kapelson (And) 5:35.28; 26. Jenny Meltz (And) 5:38.86

200 FREE RELAY: 1. Andover (Tiffany Petzold, Jenny Geary, Candice Peak & Liz Mancuso), 1:40.94


100 BACKSTROKE: 1. Brittany Sasser (Belmont) 57.77; 2. Candice Peak (And) 59.33; 4. Diana Harlow (And) 1:01.52; 6. Erin McAuliffe (And) 1:01.73

100 BREASTSTROKE: 1. Meghan Healey (Needham) 1:06.61; 5. Amy Caron (And) 1:08.80

400 FREE RELAY: 1. NDA-Hingham 3:41.32; 2. Andover (Tiffany Petzold, Diana Harlow, Candice Peak & Caitlin Doherty), 3:41.94

NOTE

Andover wins fifth straight All-State championship.



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STATE CHAMPIONS

LADY WARRIORS

Continued from page 20

with no one seriously pushing or challenging her is remarkable."

Doherty also swam the third leg (fly) on the 200 medley relay, which was completed by Harlow and Caron.

"We took the lead at the start of this race, too, and never lost it," said Fitzgerald.

The quartet's 1:50.33 time was just shy of the state record of 1:49.17 established by the 2002 AHS team.

Joining Mancuso on the winning 200 free relay were Peak and freshmen Petzold and Geary.

"The freshmen girls swam like seasoned veterans again," said Fitzgerald, glad to see the nucleus of the next three AHS teams cannot be intimidated by their surroundings.

Solid performances

The AHS 400 free relay of Petzold, Harlow, Peak and Doherty finished a split-second behind winner Notre Dame Academy of Hingham.

NDA touched in 3:41.32 and Andover, which had won this event the previous four years, in 3:41.94.

"Caitlin swam the anchor leg of her life and almost pulled it out," said Fitzgerald. "The four girls looked so 'down' after the race. But it didn't last long. It took a great effort to win and those NDA kids deserve a lot of credit."

After the Sectionals Fitzgerald predicted a first place for Candice Peak in the All-State 100 backstroke, but it didn't quite materialize as she was runner-up to Belmont senior standout Brittany Sasser once again.

Sasser recorded a fast 57.77 time and Peak came in at 59.33.

"Once again you have to give it up for Brittany," said Fitzgerald. "She's a competitor and, although I love watching her swim and have tremendous respect for her, I can't say I'm sorry she's graduating."

Peak's third place came in the 100 free where she checked in at 54.39.

Diana Harlow's strong showing featured a fourth in the 100 back, with a personal-best 1:01.52, and fifth in the 200 individual medley (IM) where her 2:12.83 was about three seconds behind winner Jen Vogel of NDA-Hingham (2:09.08).

Amy Caron collected a medal and ribbon with a fifth place in the 100 breaststroke (1:08.80) and a seventh in the 200 IM (2:15.40).

"The competition was a little stiffer in the breaststroke this year," said Fitzgerald. "If Amy had posted the same time last year she would have finished second."

Meghan Healey of Needham won the 100 breast in 1:06.61.

This race is one where it looked like the Acton girls peaked early, because

none of the Colonials' four qualifiers scored.

Fabulous frosh

Freshman Jen Geary snagged a pair of ribbons by placing seventh in the 500 free (5:18.99) and ninth in the 200 free with a personal-best 2:00.75 clocking.

"Jenny was a surprise with her excellent finish in the 500 free, her time in the 200 and the very fast 50 leg she swam (25.20) in the 200 free relay," said Fitzgerald.

Ninth-grader Tiffany Petzold also collected two ribbons by grabbing eighth in the 200 free, with a personal-best 2:00.56, and 11th in the 100 free (56.32).

"We were looking for a bulk of points in the 100 free," said Fitzgerald. "We loaded up in this event and it paid off with the three placers" who combined for 30 points.

Another frosh phenom provided one of the biggest AHS surprises of the meet, as Erin McAuliffe corralled some hardware with her sixth place in the 100 back. Her 1:01.73 was a personal best.

"Erin is a perfect example of peaking at the exact right time," said Fitzgerald. "She hit her stride the past two weekends in the two biggest meets."

Continued on page 22



Andover senior Liz Mancuso acknowledges the applause of the crowd after picking up her first-place medal in the 100-yard freestyle race at the 2003 MIAA All-State Championship Meet Sunday, Nov. 16 at Harvard University. Mancuso also took first place in the 50-yard freestyle race and anchored the winning 200-yard freestyle relay team.

Court case still pending

Although it is something the AHS coaches, team and administrators wish had been put to rest quietly a long time ago, the MIAA appears intent on persisting in its court case involving Liz Mancuso.

The case swings both ways, however, as the Mancuso family and Andover administrators are fighting just as hard to get this resolved in their favor.

Last Thursday a third MIAA appeal, trying to force the AHS swimmer to sit out the All-State Meet, was turned down.

Andover applied for a fifth-year senior waiver, as Mancuso transferred to AHS from Austin Prep as a freshman.

With few exceptions, the only time fifth-year waivers are turned down is if the athlete is too old, or has competed four previous years for a high school team - neither of which applies to Mancuso.

But MIAA officials contend that when she swam as an eighth grader for the non-school Merrimack Valley Pirates team it was the equivalent of a season of high school competition.

Under that assumption they

Continued on page 22

Who put the powder in AHS Powderpuff football?



Kyra Auffermann

There are two types of girls when it comes to football. Some girls understand the game, love the game, watch the Patriots every Sunday and resent the assumption that their pink lip-gloss implies they can't differentiate between a quarterback and a halfback. This doesn't just include the jock stereotype; girls with weekly manicures

and \$250 Coach purses drop everything for the kickoff.

I'm going to be honest. I'm not one of those girls.

I'm touchdown illiterate; heck, I even had to check with an ESPN junkie to verify that the position of halfback even existed. Sure, running around the beach with a football is fun; but I legitimately have no clue what's going on.

I've accepted that.

However, my sheer lack of knowledge and coordination won't stop me from playing in Friday's Powderpuff football game tomorrow night. Two teams, the Ballahs and the Tanks, will face off at 7 at the Andover High football field, with tickets available at the gate. (All proceeds are being

donated to Lazarus House.)

The AHS tradition is replete with male cheerleaders - and judging from the glimpses I've caught, they make a mean pyramid.

This will be my athletic debut (with the exception of some track meets freshman and sophomore year). And to be honest, I'm a little scared.

Andover High is home to many championship girls teams - swimming (again!), volleyball, basketball - just to mention a few. There won't be too many qualms about smudging

mascara Friday; it might get a little vicious. Sure, it's only touch football - but there have been instances of brawls before. Things may get - let's put it mildly, and say - competitive.

As a result, I'm somewhat nervous about what will happen to me if I run the wrong way, score for the wrong team, or perform some overtly graceful maneuver where the ball will ricochet off my head, because any of those options are entirely feasible. Despite my unathletic tendencies, the whole experience so far has been fun - and

I'm ready for the big game (well, I'm sort of ready...)

For the purposes of journalistic integrity, I have to emphasize that I have a definite bias towards the Ballahs, the unfortunate team that's stuck with me. Since I don't want to jinx anything, so I won't use this opportunity to go on a team-spirit fueled tangent.

Instead, I think I'm going to see if I can actually get the football to spiral when I throw it.

► Kyra Auffermann is a WHAT'S UP intern at the Andover Townsman.

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LADY WARRIORS
Continued from page 21

Other standouts

Several other Andover qualifiers swam well but did not score.

This talented group included senior Capt. Carolyn Cody, who was 14th in the 100 fly (1:03.49) and 17th in the 200 IM (2:22.17).

In the 500 free, senior Capt. Jamie Kapelson (looking at Brown University for 2004) was 23rd (5:35.28) and freshman

Jenny Meltz 26th (5:38.86).

Senior Capt. Casey Frost barely missed scoring in the one-meter diving, finishing 13th with 241.95 points.

Juniors Libby Fortier and Anne Marie Cashman also qualified and competed for the champs.

The 2003 state diving champ is Juliet DeFrancisco of Newton North who chalked up 444.85 points.

There were no AHS team records or state records set in the meet.

Andover will graduate 11 seniors including All-State Meet scorers Mancuso and Caron.

Others who have competed for the Blue and Gold for the final time are Cody, Frost, Kapelson, Capt. Liz Pallotta, Christina Casey, Lydia Alovosetti, Jackie Leahy, Jackie Maye and Phuonghu Nguyen.

Banquet

The annual team awards/breakup banquet will be held this Sunday at the Old Town Hall.

The festivities get underway at 4 p.m. and should last until at least 8 p.m.

In addition to good food and even better company, the evening will feature distribution of several individual trophies and plaques as well as the naming of the 2004 team captains.

There is also likely to be some good-natured ribbing and a few gag gifts.

3 named to Division 1 All-Star Team

Andover High girls' soccer standouts Jackie Powers, Layal Hannah and Emily Pallotta have been named to the Eastern Mass. Coaches Association Division 1

Register by Dec. 1 for spring soccer

Andover Soccer 2004 spring registration forms are due Dec. 1. Pick up a form at Memorial Hall Library, Athletes Corner, Daher's, or the Andover Hockey Shop. Log onto: www.andoversoccer.org for a form.

Mighty Bulldogs - The Andover Bulldogs U-10 boys team competed in the Pepperell Fall Classic over Columbus Day weekend. From left are: (front row) Noah Curtin, Paul Sockol, James Hamilton, Connor Droff, Eduardo Machado; (back row) Peter Kloss, Taylor Perkins, Brendan O'Connell, Ryan Cooney, Lucas Christopherson and Coach David Perkins. Not in photo: Alex King.

All-Star Team. Junior forward Powers and senior defender Hannah were selected first team, while sophomore midfielder Pallotta was chosen second team.

Powers helped lead the Merrimack Valley Conference Division 1 champions, and MIAA Division 1 North Tournament semifinalists, to

a sparkling 15-5-2 overall record by scoring 23 goals and passing out 10 assists.

Hannah was adept at breaking up opponents' rushes and helping keep the ball out of the AHS net.

Pallotta was the Lady Warriors' second high scorer with 18 points on six goals and a team-best 12 assists.



Court case still pending

LIZ MANCUSO
Continued from page 21

say she should not have competed her freshman year at AHS, and a recent ruling at least temporarily took away Andover's hard-earned 2000 state title.

That could still be reversed, and the title re-instated, if the Mancuso family has the final verdict go their way.

"All I can say at this time is it looks like it's not over yet," said Andover High head coach Marilyn Fitzgerald.

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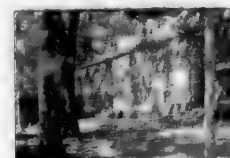
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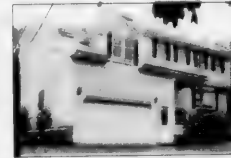
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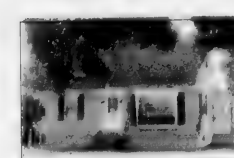
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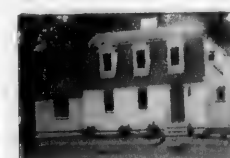
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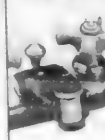
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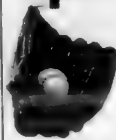
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A public hearing will be held at THE HALL, SECOND FLOOR in MEMORIAL HALL LIBRARY, ELM SQUARE, ANDOVER on THURSDAY, December 4, 2003 at 7:00 P.M. on the petition of Kenneth Construction, Inc. 236 Pleasant St., Methuen MA for a modification of Decision No. 3350.

Premises affected are located at 241 Lowell St., Andover, MA in an SRB District as shown on Assessor's Map 110 as Lot 3. DANIEL S. CASPER, CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF APPEALS November 20 & 27, 2003

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF HEARING

A public hearing will be held at THE HALL, SECOND FLOOR in MEMORIAL HALL LIBRARY, ELM SQUARE, ANDOVER on THURSDAY, December 4, 2003 at 7:00 P.M. on the petition of Stephen & Maria Crockett, 125 Dascomb Rd., Andover, MA for a variance from the requirements of Article VIII, § 4.1.2 and/or for a special permit under Article VIII, § 3.3.5 to construct an addition that will not meet dimensional requirements.

Premises affected are located at 125 Dascomb Rd., Andover, MA in an SRC District as shown on Assessor's Map 179 as Lot 7. DANIEL S. CASPER, CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF APPEALS November 20 & 27, 2003

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Premises affected are located at 62 Walnut Ave., Andover, MA in an SRA District as shown on Assessor's Map 20 as Lot 87. DANIEL S. CASPER, CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF APPEALS November 20 & 27, 2003

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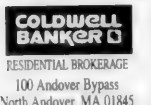


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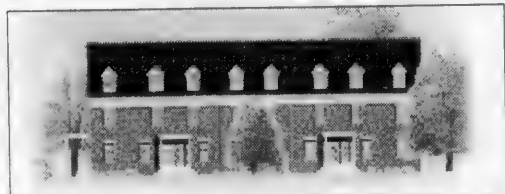
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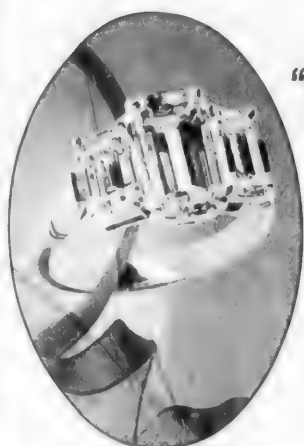
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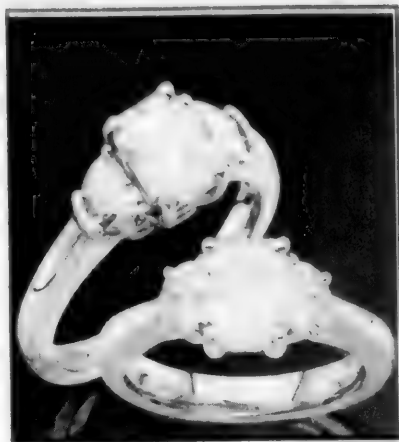
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NOVEMBER 20, 2003

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ANDOVER TOWNSMAN



2A Volunteering: A gift that can bring joy all year

By Thea Shapiro

When the holidays approach, many people reach out to help others. But volunteering is a gift that people can give all year. And many Andover residents do exactly that: They volunteer their time to help the public schools, churches and temples, town committees, community theater, organizations such as the Andover Historical Society and much more. What it is that attracts people to do volunteer work? Beth Poulo of Johnson Road says she "sees many needs, and volunteering is an opportunity to give back to my community. The need isn't just in the surrounding towns, there is also a need in Andover to help women and to help those who live in poverty and abusive situations."

As president of the Andover chapter of Quota International, which in 1919 became the first women's international services organization, Poulo is busy giving back these days. She raises funds for Quota's projects, including Oasis, which provides transitional housing for women in Lawrence; the YMCA; and the Trauma Intervention Program. Quota also provides scholarships to people working toward degrees in hearing-related studies. Quota's hands-on services include providing child care and after-school classrooms, and reading aloud and practicing reading skills with children.



Beth Poulo president (at right dressed as a witch) at a Halloween party for Oasis children given by of Quota International of Andover. Other Quota volunteers in the photo are from Andover Kiki Schneider, Nancy Dube and Tina Cummings of Reading.



From left, Diane Hender Maria Bartlett and Amy Janovsky.

Maria Bartlett, of Bateson Drive, started volunteering in Andover 26 years ago when she moved to town and joined the League of Women Voters Andover/North Andover. After serving for a time as League president, Bartlett became a member of the League's Sus-

tainability Committee, which studies water quality and pesticide use. Bartlett also works with the Vision 21 Committee, which is developing a comprehensive vision for Andover. This vision is meant to provide a strategic planning guide for the town during the next 20 years.

She is a member of Andover CARES, which started as a suicide-prevention task force and has grown to increase public awareness about high-risk behaviors in teens and how to help prevent them; Parent to Parent, which arranges talks on raising children; and is on the advisory committee of A Better Chance, which funds scholarships for academically qualified minority students.

Bartlett sees volunteering as committing to making the world a better place. "Maybe it's just that old saying, If you not part of the solution you're part of the problem," she said.

Amy Janovsky of Snowberry Road sees volunteering as giving people an opportunity to contribute their knowledge and talent to make Andover a stronger community. Janovsky has been volunteering in Andover for many years. She is on the Vision 21 Committee and recently worked on the Pesticide Reduction Task Force which put a town policy in place on the use of pesticides.

Diane Hender of Millstone Circle started volunteering when her son was still in pre-school. "I volunteer," Hender explains, "because I feel I need to actively support at least some of the things I believe in." Hender, her husband, Ray, and their son, Taylor, were trained together to work with the Samaritans of Merrimack Valley. Both Diane

and Ray still volunteer there, while Taylor, now 18 and away at college, volunteers at the Boys and Girls Club in Harrisonburg, Va.

Hender started out volunteering for the Andona Society and the PTO, then became involved with the League of Women Voters of Andover/North Andover, where she currently serves as vice president. She is also involved with Parent to Parent, Andover CARES and CHAT (Community Health Advisory Team). Hender serves as president of both Andover Dollars for Scholars, a committee that raises money to award scholarships to Andover residents seeking post secondary education, and the Andover Historical Society.

Want to volunteer this holiday season, or into the new year? Below are some contacts for volunteer opportunities in Andover and some of the surrounding communities.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

A Better Chance, Andover. Both nationally and locally, ABC funds scholarships for academically qualified minority students interested in attending private high schools and competitive public schools. The students live in a dorm on Main Street and connect with a host family. For more information, contact Eileen Reilly 978-475-7927.

continued on page 4A



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4A Become part of a community through volunteering

■ VOLUNTEERING

Continued from page 2A

The Andona Society is a volunteer organization of more than 200 women. Founded in 1952, the society is dedicated to supporting local youth-oriented organizations, providing scholarships and "camperships" to resident youth and donating to community service projects. For more information, send a request to the membership chairwoman, The Andona Society, P.O. Box 256, Andover, MA 01810.

Andover Fund for Education is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization dedicated to supporting Andover's public schools. Member contributions support projects beyond the scope of the regular school budget and fund an endowment to benefit students well into the future. For more information, call Jim McConaughy at 978-475-9781 or 978-685-3000 Ext. 23.

Andover Historical Society needs volunteers to help as tour guides, with special events and

for data entry. For more information, call 978-475-2236.

Adult Learning Center of Lawrence is looking for caring people to invest their time, talents and skill by becoming tutors for adult learners and offer daily classes in math, reading, English and US citizenship and preparation for a general education development high school equivalency diploma. Volunteers will work one on one with a student or as an assistant in a classroom. Scheduling and learning sites are flexible. Training, materials and support are ongoing. Call Merri Newhall at 978-975-5917 Ext. 24.

Andover Friendly Visitor Program is part of Andover's Council on Aging/Senior Center and Family Service Association of Greater Lawrence. The program offers companionship for homebound elders and nursing home residents. Those interested may contact Kristine Arakelian at 978-623-8326.

Big Brother and Big Sister volunteers are needed in the northern Essex County and

southern New Hampshire to provide mentoring and support to children ages 6 to 14 a few hours a week. Training and ongoing support provided. Call 978-687-1370.

Boys and Girls Club of Lawrence needs volunteers. Call Margaret Cronin at 978-683-2747. Ext. 17, or e-mail www.lawrencebgc.com.

Challenge Unlimited Program at Ironstone Farm in Andover is looking for volunteers for an hour to help out with therapeutic riding lessons for disabled children and adults. For more information, check our Web site at www.challengeunlimited.org, or call Susan Farese or Kathy Izzi at 978-475-4056.

Court Appointed Special Advocate Program is looking for adult volunteers from the Merrimack Valley and Southern New Hampshire to advocate child victims of abuse and neglect. Training is provided for a commitment of 15 to 20 hours a month for two years. Contact Connie Williamson 978-683-9505 Ext. 17, cwilliamson@familyservicesinc.com

@familyservicesinc.com

Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley needs volunteers who have a few hours to help local elders with food shopping, understanding Medicare and other insurances, paying bills and/or balancing checkbook, being an advocate for nursing home residents, providing companionship and help with small tasks, accompanying them to medical appointments and reporting results to their caregivers and teaching basic computer skills. Flexible hours. Training and support. Call Eileen Giordano at 800-892-0890 Ext. 463.

Family Services Inc. needs volunteers for the Kids and Career Mentoring Program. Workplace mentors are needed to provide Lawrence students with the opportunity to learn about the workplace. Contact Lori Howe 978-685-0502, Ext. 39, lhowe@familyservicesinc.com.

Habitat for Humanity is looking for volunteers for everything from carpentry to working

on a committee, no experience necessary. Call 978-681-8858, www.habitatlawrence.org

Holy Family Hospital needs adult volunteers evenings and weekends to work in the gift shop, front desk and the emergency department. For more information, call Kathleen Clemmer at 978-687-0156 Ext. 2440.

Immigrant City Archives, 6 Essex St., Lawrence, is looking for typists, word processors and transcribers of oral history. Contact Joan Kelley at 978-686-9230.

Lazarus House in Lawrence needs volunteers for their shelter, soup kitchen, thrift store, in maintenance, the office and yard work. Call Kelly Townsend at 978-689-8575, Ext. 212.

The League of Women Voters of Andover/North Andover is a nonpartisan organization that promotes the informed and active participation of citizens in government and works to influence public policy through education and advocacy. The league sponsors voter services including

continued on page 5A

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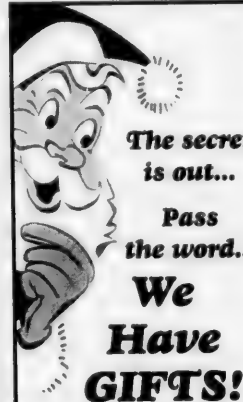
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WHAT'S UP Holiday gift drive to begin

by Reena Patel

Andover Youth Service member

Each year the Andover Youth Services and Andover Youth Council lend a hand to families in Andover who need a bit of extra help during the holidays. The fifth annual Holiday Gift Drive provides holiday meal essentials and children's gifts to families in need. Last year the drive presented 25 families with holiday necessities and gifts. This year, Youth Services hopes to increase the number of children and families reached. In addition to holiday gifts, Youth Services will provide Thanksgiving meals to families that need support in this holiday season. If you could use assistance or know somebody who could use help in putting together a meal, getting gifts for loved ones, or would like to make a donation to the gift drive, give AYS Program Coordinator Glenn Wilson a call at 978-623-8242 or e-mail him at gwilson@town.andover.ma.us. All the information received will be completely confidential. Funding for the holiday drive will be raised through donations from the community and the Christmas tree lot at the Andover Community Skate Park, so make sure you pick up your tree, wreaths, and other holiday items at this fun community event.



Make a donation to the Youth Services Gift Drive.

VOLUNTEERING

Continued from page 4A

Opportunities abound

ing candidate debates and voter education events such as the Town Warrant Forum. This year the league is focusing on affordable housing, town government, pesticide and water use and will continue to co-sponsor the Read-Along in Andover schools. The group is open to all women and men. For further details contact Diana Walsh 978-689-3740.

Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals needs volunteers for its shelter at Nevins Farm & Equine Center, Broadway, Methuen. Minimum age is 16. Contact Jill O'Connell at 978-687-7453.

Meals on Wheels needs drivers to deliver hot meals to the elderly. A daily stipend is paid for 1 to 2 hours work at lunchtime. Transportation a must. Lawrence and Methuen routes are available. Call 978-686-1422.

Merrimack Valley Chapter of the Red Cross needs volunteers for the Red Cross to help disaster victims and those in need of emergency medical attention. Contact Betty Kirk, 177 Ward Hill Ave., Haverhill, at 978-683-2465 or 978-372-6871.

Parent Aide Program matches trained volunteers to parent aides with families in need of services. Call Lorraine Malignaggi at 978-681-4985.

Parents Helping Parents, a child abuse prevention agency, is looking for volunteers with good interpersonal skills and a commitment to strengthening

families to facilitate support groups North Andover, Lawrence and Methuen. Volunteers must commit to spending five hours a week for a period of one year as a facilitator. Training and ongoing supervision and support is provided by Parents Helping Parents. Call 1-800-882-1250 to request application materials or for more information visit our Web site at www.parentshelpingparents.org.

Samaritans of Merrimack Valley is looking for volunteers to staff its 24-hour crisis hot line. Training is provided. For more information, call 978-688-0030.

Trauma Intervention Programs of Merrimack Valley needs volunteers, who police, the fire department and paramedics will call to help out in a crisis. To take part, write to TIP at 167 East St., Methuen, Ma., 01844, or call 978-975-8471.

Quota International of Andover is a nonprofit organization that works to meet the needs of disadvantaged women and children. The organization also champions the education of hearing-impaired children in the Merrimack Valley and provides a yearly scholarship to a student of the Northern Essex Community College Speech and Hearing Impaired Interpreter's program. For more information about the club, contact Beth Poulo 978-475-6836, 978-269-2221 or Kiki Schneider 978-474-9142.

YMCA of Merrimack Valley needs volunteers. Contact the Andover/North Andover branch YMCA at 978-685-3541 or the Lawrence branch at 978-686-6191.

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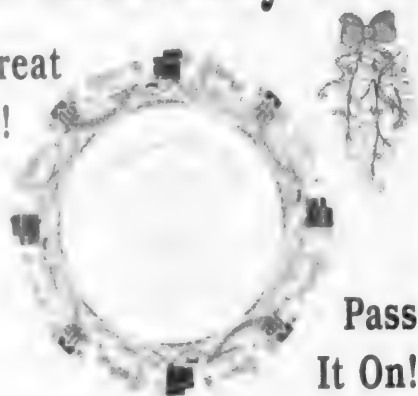
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'Spice' up winter days with a hearty recipe

(WMS) – "No soup for you!" shouts the man behind the counter. Since the infamous "Soup Nazi" episode aired on the sitcom "Seinfeld" in 1995, soup has been perceived as a hearty, satisfying meal.

Indeed, soup is more than just something to eat when one has a cold. Soups boast versatility — a gourmet bisque can be an appetizer at a dinner party, a chilled soup can cool you on a summer's day or a bowl of noodles and broth can be a meal in itself. Soups can be as simple as some vegetables, water and stock or as complex as one desires.

Brew up a pot of this "Spicy Chicken and Corn Soup" courtesy of *The Soup Book* (Fog City Press).

Spicy Chicken and Corn Soup

Serves 4

Soups improve in flavor when allowed to mature a day or two before being served. This soup can be made a day ahead.

This recipe calls for cilantro, also known as fresh coriander. This strongly flavored herb is popular in Asian, Indian, Latin American and Middle Eastern cooking. To store, rinse under cold running water and shake dry, then wrap in paper towels and keep in a plastic bag in the refrigerator for up to one week.

Soup

1 tablespoon vegetable oil



Spice up any winter gathering with a rich and hearty bowl of "Spicy Chicken and Corn Soup."

4 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves, sliced
 5 ounces chorizo (Spanish cured spicy sausage), chopped
 2 onions, chopped
 2 cloves garlic, crushed
 1 tablespoon ground cumin
 1/4 teaspoon chile powder
 3 cups chicken stock
 3 cups tomato juice
 2 1/2 tablespoons tomato paste
 2 teaspoons sugar
 1 red bell pepper, chopped
 1 green bell pepper, chopped
 2 zucchini, chopped
 1 can red kidney beans, rinsed, drained
 1 can corn kernels, drained
 2 1/2 tablespoons chopped cilantro
 salt and ground pepper

For the soup: Heat the oil in a large saucepan over medium heat and cook the chicken and chorizo in batches, stirring, until lightly browned; remove from pan and set aside. Add the onions and garlic to the pan and cook, stirring, until the onions soften. Add the cumin and chile powder and cook, stirring, until fragrant, about one minute.

Stir in the stock, tomato juice, tomato paste and sugar and bring to a boil. Add the bell peppers and zucchini and simmer, uncovered, about five minutes or until just tender. Stir in the reserved chicken and chorizo, the beans, corn and cilantro. Simmer, uncovered, until heated through. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

A new year, a new you –Weight loss and diabetes

(NAPSI) – 'Tis the season of New Year's resolutions, holiday eating guilt and shedding extra pounds gained during this festive time of year. For people with diabetes, losing weight can be challenging, but it can be an effective way to manage the disease.

For a person with type 2 diabetes, losing weight through diet and exercise is often the first treatment recommended by doctors. For some people, losing as little as five percent of body weight can help lower blood pressure and cholesterol and reduce the risk of heart disease. For a person who is 200 pounds, that's only 10 pounds. Most importantly, weight loss can help improve blood glucose control, the cornerstone of managing diabetes.

"Weight loss takes practice, patience and, most of all, commitment. It's a major change in attitude toward a healthier

lifestyle," says nutrition counselor and diabetes expert, Lorena Drago.

"The good news is there are diet and exercise modifications that anyone, particularly those with diabetes, can easily incorporate into their everyday lifestyles to help with weight loss and controlling blood sugar levels," she said.

Drago recommends the following tips for people with diabetes to lose weight safely and help keep blood sugar levels in check.

Today's portion sizes have become distorted. People with diabetes especially need to find their way back to "portion normalcy." Use familiar items to help keep portions in check: for instance, a serving the size of the palm of a woman's hand approximately equals 3 ounces of meat or the size of a baseball is equivalent to a serving of fruit.

Fine Tune Eating Plans. Work with a registered dietician who can help design a weight loss plan to meet individual needs. They may recommend products like Glucerna Weight Loss Shakes, which are specifically designed to help people with diabetes lose weight as part of a reduced-calorie meal plan. They contain slowly digested carbohydrates to help manage blood glucose levels.

Shake it up! Physical activity is important for everyone, but particularly for those with diabetes.

It can be as easy as selecting a favorite tune, putting on comfortable shoes and dancing. Dancing for 20 minutes can burn up to 100 calories.

For more tips, personalized meal and exercise plans or to receive a free quarterly newsletter (*The Diabetes Health Connection*), visit www.glucerna.com or call 1-800-986-8501 Ext. 920.

Make those charity dollars count

(NAPSI)-Experts believe that the slowed economy will have a negative effect on charitable giving this year. With half of all donations historically made between Thanksgiving and Christmas, it could be a sad holiday season for non-profits. So givers should be diligent in making sure that their donations are properly utilized.

"We're not optimistic," said Trent Stamp, executive director of Charity Navigator, an online consumer resource for charity ratings. "Without the money Americans had in past years to actively support charities, we anticipate donations will be down about 10 percent this year. We urge those who do give to be particularly strategic when deciding which charities deserve support."

Charity Navigator offers the following tips for those planning to give this holiday season:

- **Avoid telemarketers:** The new "do-not-call" legislation is bringing peace to dinner tables all over the country, but it exempts many charities from these restrictions. Telemarketers

Make Your Charity Donations Matter

- Avoid telemarketers
- Think about the long term
- Concentrate your giving
- Don't forget the arts
- Follow your investment

are seeking more business for charities, which means more phone calls soliciting for support. Avoid them and their generally high fundraising costs.

- **Think about the long term:** Like investing, giving should be driven by long-term goals. Define what one hopes their giving accomplishes and develop a plan to reach those goals. Dropping some change in the bucket outside the mall is fine, but responsible philanthropy – the kind that changes the world – demands more thought.

- **Concentrate on giving:** Diversification isn't an important consideration when giving. A few well-placed larger gifts go farther and have the potential to do more good than a wide array of smaller gifts. It's even more incumbent upon givers to

research a charity and make sure they'll get the most bang for their buck.

- **Don't forget the arts:** Arts charities suffer disproportionately during tough economic times. The arts are critical to our communities and it is essential that we ensure their long-term survival.

- **Follow ones investment.** Once one gives, be sure to contact the charity next March or April and find out how they're using the money. One is not looking for a list of itemized expenses, but instead a progress report to give a sense of how responsive they are and if they can communicate their progress clearly. If the charity one chose can't tell a donor what kind of results they created from their investment, find one that will.

Charity Navigator is best known for its ratings, accessible at no charge at www.charitynavigator.org, of the financial health of more than 2,500 of America's best-known charities.

The organization urges givers to research charities before they give this holiday season.

Wine-tasting tips for any occasion

(NAPS) – Before choosing your holiday wine for entertaining or gift-giving, review some basics. The main difference between wines rests in their tannin levels, or astringent flavors. Sometimes tannin levels balance fruity taste. Other times, the taste is more acidic.

Here are the three main ways to determine flavor — use them to help guests understand wines at a party.

Sight: If it's a red wine, tip

the glass back and forth, and watch the liquid flow down the sides of the glass. Some wines will form "legs." Wines with legs have higher glycerin levels, and are better at holding flavor and aroma. Also, the lighter the wine, the younger it is.

Smell: Swirl the glass around, and then smell the wine by keeping the glass a short distance from the nose. Inhale, and move the glass away from the nose. One is determining the

"nose of the wine." Look for fruit and grass scents. Sometimes, a discernible scent will be difficult to find initially.

Taste: Swish the wine around in one's mouth, soaking one's tongue. Sometimes, a dominant taste will be evident immediately. Other times, conflicting tastes emerge. Look for a taste of wood, which comes from the barrels the wine was stored in. Also check for aftertastes, another way to judge a good wine.

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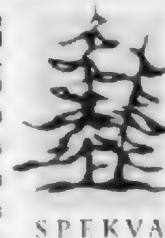
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8A Share favorite cookie recipes with friends: Host a holiday cookie swap

(NAPSI)-Shopping, wrapping presents, baking, cooking, socializing. The holidays can be a busy time, indeed. To save time and money on holiday baking, consider hosting a cookie swap. It's a great way to spend time with family and friends, and come away with a wide array of holiday cookies to grace your holiday table.

How it works

Invite a group of family and friends to each bake two to four dozen of their favorite holiday cookie. As guests arrive, they arrange their cookies on a table

with a card identifying each type of cookie.

Guests then go around the table and pick a specific number of assorted cookies to take home with them. For ease, divide the number of guests by the total number of cookies to determine how many cookies each guest can select. Each guest should go home with the same number of cookies they brought-but in a varied assortment of tastes, shapes, styles and colors.

To make the swap more personal, each guest could be introduced and then share a favorite holiday memory, the history



Cookie sampling at a holiday cookie recipe swap takes the cake.

behind the recipe, or a holiday family tradition. These stories are great icebreakers, especially if one has a group of people who might not know each other well. And, it helps to reinforce the spirit of the holidays.

Another thought is to ask each person to make a few extra cookies. The extra cookies can be put into tins and delivered to friends and relatives who are too sick to cook or bake this year. Or, they can be delivered to

local charities, fire or police departments.

Cookie Swap Tips

- Avoid duplication by having each guest provide the cookie name when they RSVP for the event.

- Ask family and friends to bring enough copies of their cookie recipe for each guest scheduled to attend.

- To avoid munching on holiday cookies, offer a few appetizers and drinks to guests, or have them bake enough cookies that on-site sampling won't deplete the number of cookies available to take home.

- If encourage cookie sampling during the cookie swap, have beverages such as tea, cider, coffee and milk on hand.

A great holiday recipe to try for your cookie swap is shortbread cookies, which can be decorated to reflect any holiday or occasion.

Shortbread Cookies

1½ cups Argo corn starch
2 cups all-purpose flour
¾ cups powdered sugar,
sifted and divided
2½ cups butter, divided
½ teaspoon vanilla
2½ teaspoons grated lemon

peel, divided

¼ cup lemon juice
sprinkles, optional
Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. In a medium bowl combine Argo corn starch, flour and ¾ cup powdered sugar. Set aside.

2. In a large bowl, beat 2 cups of butter with a mixer at medium speed until softened and smooth. Add the corn starch mixture, vanilla and 1 ½ teaspoons of lemon peel; beat well. (If necessary, refrigerate dough 1 hour or until easy to handle.)

3. Shape the dough into 1-inch balls and place them 1 ½ inches apart on ungreased cookie sheets. Bake 10 to 12 minutes, or until edges are lightly browned. Cool completely on wire racks.

4. For icing, beat together in a medium bowl the remaining ½ cup of butter and the remaining teaspoon of lemon peel until the butter is softened. Add the remaining 4 cups of powdered sugar and lemon juice; beat until well combined. Add red food coloring, if desired. Decorate cookies with icing and sprinkles in fun designs such as stripes and polka dots. Store in a tightly covered container.

Makes 6 dozen cookies.

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Pomegranate: Fruitful recipes

(NAPSA)-Cooks looking to add a distinctive touch to salads, chicken dishes, rice dishes and desserts are increasingly exploring the rich colors and succulent flavor of the pomegranate and its seeds.

These edible, juicy seeds, called "arils," are fabulous to eat and cook with, possessing great flavor and eye appeal, and are full of antioxidants. While the fresh fruit is available in stores from October to December, refrigerated, all-natural pomegranate juice is available year round.

The wonderful variety of pomegranate has large arils that can enhance a variety of recipes, such as this succulent cheesecake.

For more recipes, as well as tips on preparing and storing pomegranates, visit the Web site at www.pomwonderful.com.

Pom Cheesecake

Prep Time: 30 minutes
Chill Time: 2 hours
Makes 10 servings

Crust:

1½ cups graham cracker crumbs
½ cup melted butter

Cheesecake:

1 package (¾ oz.) gelatin
½ cup water
3 packages (8 oz. each) cream cheese



The pomegranate and its seeds can live up a variety of recipes.

¾ cup sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 cup whipping cream
1 cup arils
from 2 Pom pomegranates

1. Preheat oven to 375° F.
2. Mix graham cracker crumbs thoroughly with melted butter.
3. Gently press crumbs into the bottom and 1 inch up the sides of a 9-inch springform pan.

4. Bake in preheated oven for 10 minutes. Cool completely.

5. Sprinkle gelatin over water in a small saucepan. Let set for 5 minutes, then heat until gelatin has dissolved. Set aside to cool.

6. Mix cream cheese, sugar and vanilla until fluffy. Mix in gelatin. Set aside.

7. Score pomegranates and place in a bowl of water. Break open pomegranates to free arils. The arils will sink to the bottom of bowl and the membrane will float to the top. Sieve and put arils into a separate bowl. Set aside.

8. Whip cream until stiff. Gently but completely mix cream cheese and ½ cup arils into whipped cream.

9. Spoon into prepared, cooled crust. Smooth out the top.

10. Refrigerate for 2 hours or until set.

11. To remove from pan, gently run a sharp knife around inside of pan, then open clamp.

12. Top with remaining pomegranate arils.

Holiday grief needs special understanding

(NAPSI)-The holidays are normally a time of celebration, but for someone experiencing the recent loss of a loved one, this time can be overwhelming. Sometimes anticipation of a holiday can be more difficult than the arrival of the day itself. For help managing ones grief or the grief of loved ones during this season, VITAS Innovative Hospice Care, the nation's leading provider of hospice services, offers this advice:

1. Plan ahead. Be realistic about how one can enjoy the holidays with friends and family. Ask them for help.

Don't be afraid to retire some cherished traditions and begin new ones. Let the children decorate. Open presents the night before. Burn a candle in honor of your absent loved one.

Draw comfort from doing something for others, such as giving a donation in memory of a loved one or inviting a dinner guest who would otherwise be alone.

2. Evaluate coping plans. Don't isolate oneself from those who can offer love and support.

3. Share ones plans and limits. Let friends and family know about ones holiday plans. Inform them of any intended changes and explain how they can help.

4. Allow oneself to have fun. Take permission to enjoy the holiday. Don't feel guilty about any experience.

This holiday season, make a special effort to assess ones own needs if one has recently lost a loved one. It's also important to be sensitive to the unique traditions and rituals of grieving friends from other cultures. For more information on hospice care or coping with grief, call 1-800-938-4827.



Changing traditions like opening presents the night before can help families deal with their grief.

Did You Know...?

December 15 marks Bill of Rights Day. The day was enacted by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1941, 150 years after the signing of the Bill of Rights. The holiday was proclaimed a week after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. On this day, we celebrate the freedoms given to us by the Bill of Rights.



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Did You Know ... ?

(WMS) - According to www.word-detective.com, mistletoe was an element in European mid-winter celebrations for thousands of years before the advent of Christianity, and like many "pagan" traditions, mistletoe was eventually integrated into Christmas tradition, although it has no religious significance in itself. Today a small sprig of mistletoe is often hung in a doorway, tradition dictating that anyone caught under the sprig must submit to a kiss.

A delightful addition to almost any Thanksgiving day menu

(WMS) - Thanksgiving is a time to take advantage of tradition. Bring out the good china. Dust off the folding chairs in the basement. Scan cookbooks for the stuffing and pumpkin pie recipe one uses year in, year out.

Surprise everyone by starting a new tradition. This Thanksgiving, bake up something new with this "Baked Squash with Tomato and Basil Risotto," courtesy of *Vegetables* (Periplus), by Vicki Liley.

Baked Squash With Tomato and Basil Risotto

Serves 4 to 6

For Squash

4 golden nugget squashes (substitute acorn, dumpling or Danish squash)

3 tablespoons olive oil
6 cloves garlic, crushed

For Risotto

5 cups vegetable stock
½ cup dry white wine
3 tablespoons olive oil
1 onion, chopped
1½ cup arborio rice
2 medium tomatoes, seeds removed and chopped

½ cup freshly grated parmesan
1 tablespoon butter

½ cup chopped fresh basil

Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste



"Baked squash with Tomato and Basil Risotto" makes a tasty dish at any Thanksgiving feast.

½ cup freshly grated parmesan, for serving

To prepare golden nugget squash: Preheat oven to 350 F. Using a strong, sharp knife, cut each squash in half through stem. Scoop out and discard seeds. Trim bottom of each squash half so it sits firmly. Combine oil and garlic in a small bowl, then brush on cut surfaces. Place halves, cut side up, in an oiled baking dish. Pour ½ cup hot water around squashes. Cover with aluminum foil, and bake for 30 minutes.

Meanwhile, to make risotto: Place stock and wine in a saucepan and bring to a boil over

high heat. Reduce heat until liquid is just simmering. Keep liquid simmering.

Warm oil in medium to large saucepan over medium heat. Add onion and cook until it softens, about two minutes. Add rice and cook, stirring constantly until rice is coated with oil, about one minute. Add 1 cup liquid to rice, stirring

constantly. Reduce heat and allow risotto to simmer gently, continuing to stir. As rice takes up liquid, gradually add remaining liquid, 1 cup at a time, until all is absorbed by rice and rice is al dente and creamy, about 25 minutes. Stir in tomatoes, then cover and cook over low heat for five minutes. Remove from heat and stir in parmesan, butter and basil. Season with salt and pepper.

Remove squash halves from oven and pat centers dry with paper towels. Reduce oven temperature to 225 F. Spoon risotto into each half. Place halves in oven for 10 minutes before serving. Arrange on serving plates, and accompany with extra grated parmesan.

■ PRESS RELEASE ■

"Baubles, bibelots, delights"

Reading specialty retailers raise awareness with expanded hours on December 4

Six specialty retailers located in the historic retail block on Main Street between Haven and Woburn Streets in Reading are launching a campaign to promote Reading as a holiday shopping destination with a special event on Thurs., Dec. 4, between 5 and 10 p.m.

"We want to welcome our current customers and introduce our shops to people who don't know us yet," Jean Smith owner of Sense of Wonder said. "They can try one of Reading's restaurants and shop afterward or sample some wine and cheese then stroll from store to store," she said. "We want people to enjoy themselves."

The event is designed to raise awareness of Reading as a shopping destination offering stylish and affordable things, including artisan-designed and wearable art, home décor items, gems and semi-precious stone jewelry, wine and gourmet delicacies, tableware and accessories, handmade papers, custom stationery and desk sets, glassware and pottery, and clothing, accessories and gifts for children many of them one-of-a-kind.



The event includes food and entertainment and some special one-night promotions. Themed baskets in the window of each shop will contain items from all six retailers; visitors can enter a drawing at

each store to win that shop's basket. Participating stores are CB Designs, The Wine Shop of Reading, Simms Jewelers, Goodhearts Children's Shop, Sense of Wonder and The Hitching Post.

Aside from their merchandise, shop owners say what really sets their community-based stores apart is an emphasis on service and customer relationships. All provide help with gift selection, complimentary gift wrapping, and generous return/exchange policies.

"Being a small business in a small town allows you to know your customers in a way that just doesn't happen at the mall," Leslie Leahy of the Hitching Post says.

The six stores located on or near Main Street, Reading, between Haven and Woburn Streets, are calling their awareness campaign "SHOP THE BLOCK." For further information, call 781-944-8986.

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Turkey Day tidbits to enjoy

Tired of having the same old conversation at the dinner table this Thanksgiving Day? This year, keep everyone on their toes with a game of turkey trivia.

1. According to the National Turkey Federation, what percentage of Americans eat turkey at Thanksgiving?
Answer: 95 percent.

2. What are the most popular ways to serve leftover holiday turkey?
Answer: Sandwich; soup or stew; casserole; stir-fry; salad.

3. What is the average size of a Thanksgiving Day turkey?
Answer: 15 pounds.

4. What are the most popular uses of "dark" turkey meat?
Answer: Dark meat is used in

soup and stew, rich marinades, grilling and barbecuing.

5. Which is better nutritionally — white or dark meat?
Answer: White meat has fewer calories and less fat than dark meat.

6. Which country consumes the most turkey?
Answer: According to the USDA, Israel ate the most turkey in 2001. It is followed by United States, France, Italy, Germany, the United Kingdom and Canada.

7. The turkey was once proposed to be the official bird of the United States. Whose idea was that?
Answer: The idea was proposed by statesman Benjamin Franklin in the late 18th century. Eventu-

ally, Congress chose the bald eagle over the turkey.

8. True or false: Turkey has even been enjoyed in outer space.
Answer: True. Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin ate foil packets with roasted turkey and trimmings as their first meal on the moon.

9. What is the ratio of white to dark meat in an average 15-pound turkey?
Answer: It's about 70 percent white meat and 30 percent dark meat.

10. Can turkeys fly?
Answer: Domesticated turkeys cannot fly. Wild turkeys can fly for short distances up to 55 miles per hour and can run 20 miles per hour.

2003 White House commemorative ornament

(NAPS) — The boy on the rocking horse, depicted in the 2003 ornament, is inspired by an authentic Victorian illustration. The hand-painted, cold-cast porcelain figure is surrounded by a 24-carat gold finished brass wreath with enameled colors.



The 2003 White House Christmas ornament commemorates the presidency of Civil War hero Ulysses S. Grant (1869-1877). When President Grant and his family came to the White House they brought with them an image of peace, domestic affection and

the good life to a nation shaken by war, assassination, a presidential impeachment and deep division. Grant held the Union together during one of the most turbulent times in American history.

The holiday season at the Grant White House was celebrated with a Christmas banquet for family and close friends and by sending gift barrels of confectations and fruit to institutions caring for the orphans of families torn apart by the Civil War. Mrs. Grant often led groups of children to local shops and bought toys and candy for them.

The 2003 commemorative ornament is the 23rd in the series started by the White House Historical Association in 1981. Of the previous ornaments, 16 honor presidents, starting with George Washington.

The cost of the 2003 ornament is \$16 plus shipping and handling. It can be ordered from the White House Historical Association, P.O. Box 96586, Washington, D.C. 20090-6586. Call 1-800-555-2451 or shop online at www.whitehousehistory.org.

The White House Historical Association was established in 1961. All proceeds from its trusts and sales are used to fund acquisitions for the permanent White House collection, assist in the preservation.

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When it comes to jewelry, fashion and luxury are a natural combination. Royal Jewelers of Andover is known nationwide for their wonderful selection of beautiful fashionable jewelry by the world's most desired designers. Royal Jewelers has become our "gem" in Andover with consumers and designers traveling from long distances to visit this unique jewelry store. What sets Royal Jewelers apart from other stores?

"Paula and I have a different approach and vision to this business than other retailers," says Steven Leed of Royal Jewelers. "We offer a friendly and bright environment with lot's of open space. We combine that with a knowledgeable sales staff that is non commission. This is a rari-

ty in the world of jewelry. Now add the prettiest most fashionable jewelry styles from the world's top designers and you have the recipe for a unique and successful business" says Steven proudly. "All of this at competitive prices", adds Paula.

The brother and sister team of Paula and Steven also offer something else rare in a world class jeweler. They are a "hands on" team. Walk into Royal Jewelers and you will always find Paula or Steve on the floor fully accessible to customers and the 15+ person sales staff. "I would like to see you walk into Tiffany or any jeweler of our caliber in Boston and ask to have the owner assist you with your purchase," says Paula. "They would look at you like you just arrived from



Paula and Steven Leed

another planet," says Steven. The brother sister owners strongly believe their constant presence provides 100 percent access to the pulse beat of business.

Paula says, "We are all about the shopper. We fully understand and realize we need to keep the consumer very happy. If we don't have shoppers, we do

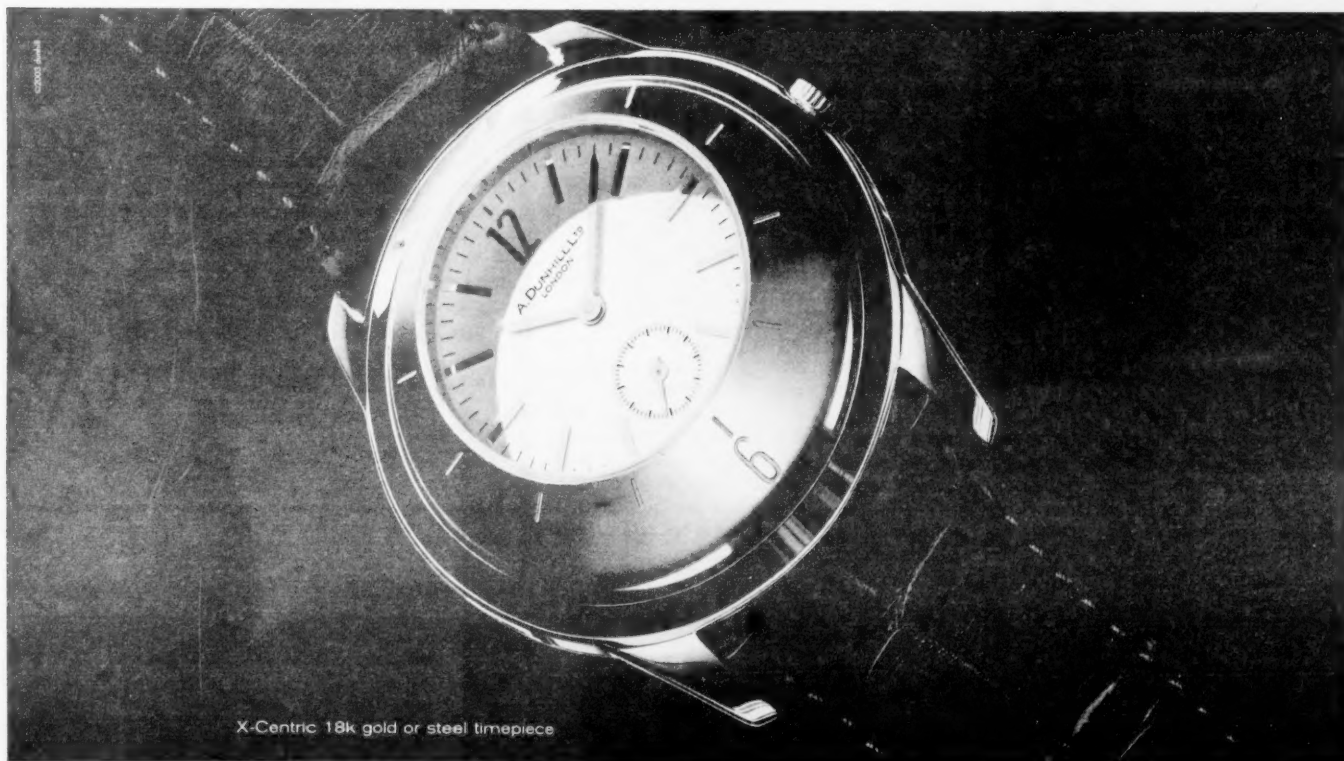
not have a business." Royal Jewelers is always updating the in store visuals to keep a fresh, bright look. "More importantly," says Steven "we are always bringing in the latest, newest and hottest styles from the many designers we showcase" This exciting offering is what attracts consumers from all over the New England states.

Designers such as David Yurman personally visit Royal Jewelers. The David Yurman store inside Royal Jewelers is the largest display of Yurman design jewelry in the United States. Mr. Yurman hosts an open house event at Royal once a year. This is rare opportunity as David Yurman does only 3 or 4 personal appearances in the course of a year. Royal Jewelers is always

his most fun event. "The Royal shoppers are always so friendly. I have been coming to Royal for this event for so many years that I am seeing many of the same faces and continuing conversations from previous years" says Mr. Yurman. "At Royal I often assist the customer in selecting a new jewelry design. This is fun for me as I am always in the design studio working on new concepts."

"Paula and Steve are unique amongst jewelers. They are very involved with their customers and know many by first name. You can see they really enjoy their business and their customers."

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